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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®
MAGAZINE

MAY 1994

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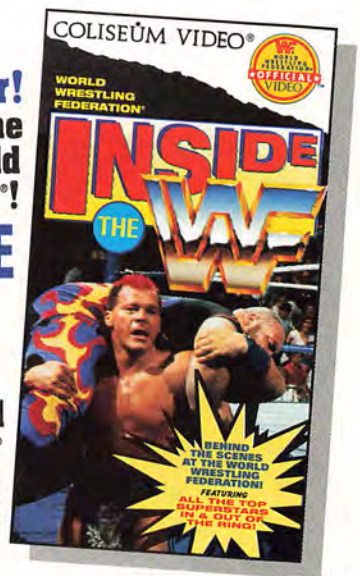


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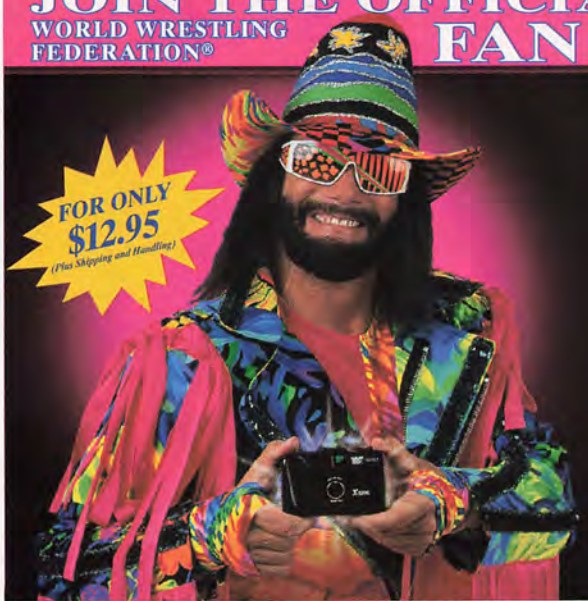

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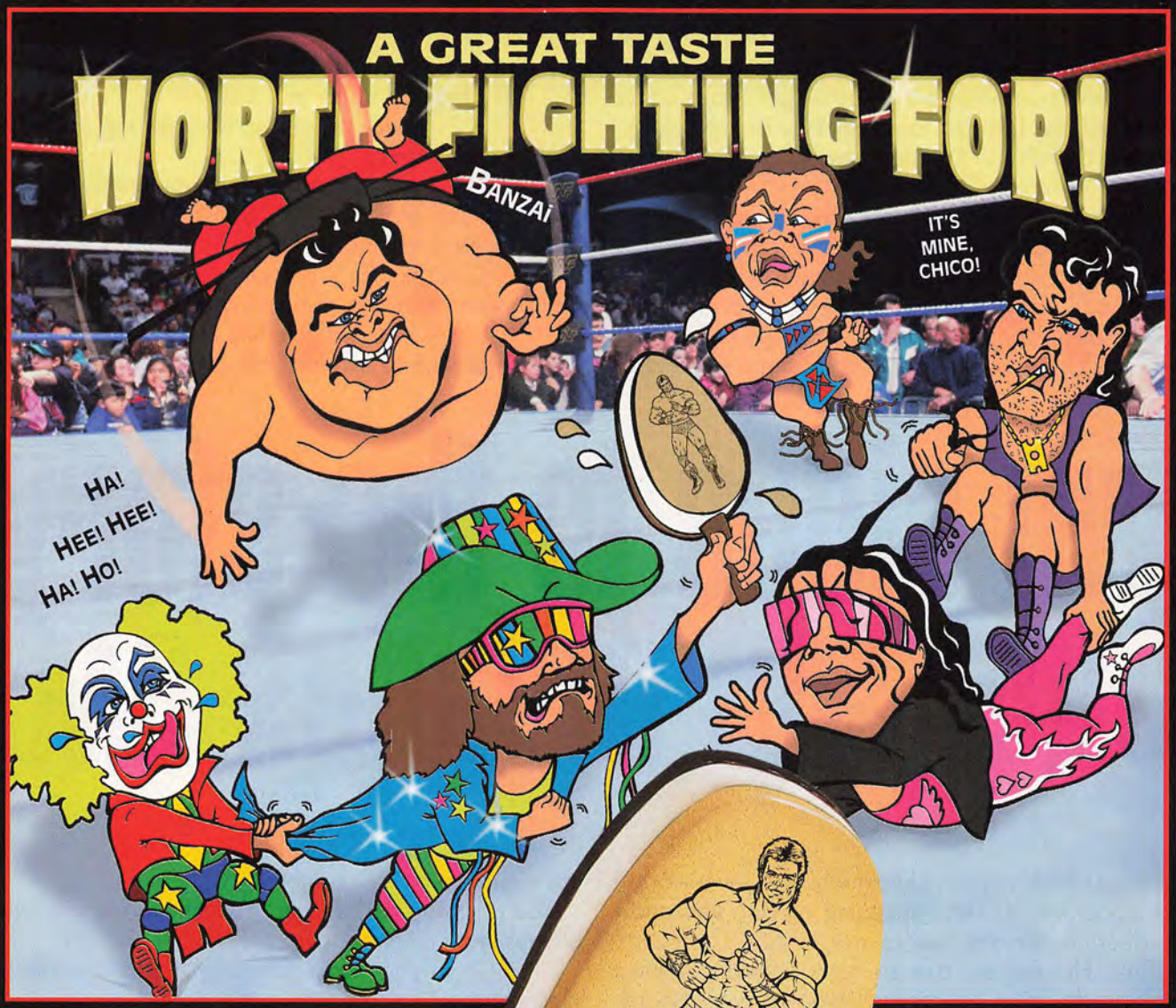


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# two sides to the story

BY JANUS

I've heard that the World Wrestling Federation is coming out with all kinds of new products featuring the people they call "superstars." They've got new books, biographies about wrestlers. They've got sports cards about wrestlers. I've got to admit they're top quality. But there's a problem. I'm not in any of them. That was a mistake. Why wasn't I included?

Because you—and I—are nobody.

Nobody? Do you know what I've done? Do you know where I've been? Do you know what I've accomplished? How many friends I have at the top? Even on Pennsylvania Avenue?

You don't have any friends. I do. But not the kind of people you think you do. I know who you—we—are. I know about friends. And speaking of who you and I are, despite rumors, we're not CLASSY FREDDY BLASSIE. His fingers are so arthritic from poking people in the eyes he couldn't type at a keyboard. And he can't spell, anyway.

We're GORILLA MONSOON.

The heck we are. Let me set you straight right now. My half of this deal is lots better looking. You're uglier. Besides, GORILLA was an English major. Need any more be said?

If we can't figure out who we are, I wonder if the readers can? Those pencil-neck geeks.

Don't try to be someone you're not, you cretin. Did you notice I didn't call you a humanoid, which sets another rumor to rest.

Ahem. As presid...

No way, JACK TUNNEY we're not. And I've got to say, thank the Lord for that. I'd rather be BASTION BOOGER than TUNNEY any day.

BOOGER? Speaking of that fat trashbag, how the heck can he be recycled?

BOOGER'S got his good points, you know.

Points? The guy is as round as a basketball. And talk about basketball, the Air Man, MICHAEL JORDAN, thinks he's gonna play baseball—that dumb sport is a big topic in this issue—so maybe RANDY SAVAGE could give him a few pointers about how to be nice to umpires. He could tell you how to use your cool on the diamond.

You're trying to be cute. You know RANDY was always in an umpire's face.

SAVAGE in your face? Close up. That's a whole lot worse than BOOGER.

Have yourself a Slim Jim.

I'm getting more than a little tired of your wisecracks, creepo.

You set yourself up for them every time, dummy. You walk right into them.

If you think you're gonna keep this up, you're gonna walk into a fist.

It'll hurt you just as much as it'll hurt me. We'd better figure out who we are. Could we be PAUL BEARER? STAN LANE? BARRY HOROWITZ? BARRY. Now that's a nice name... WF

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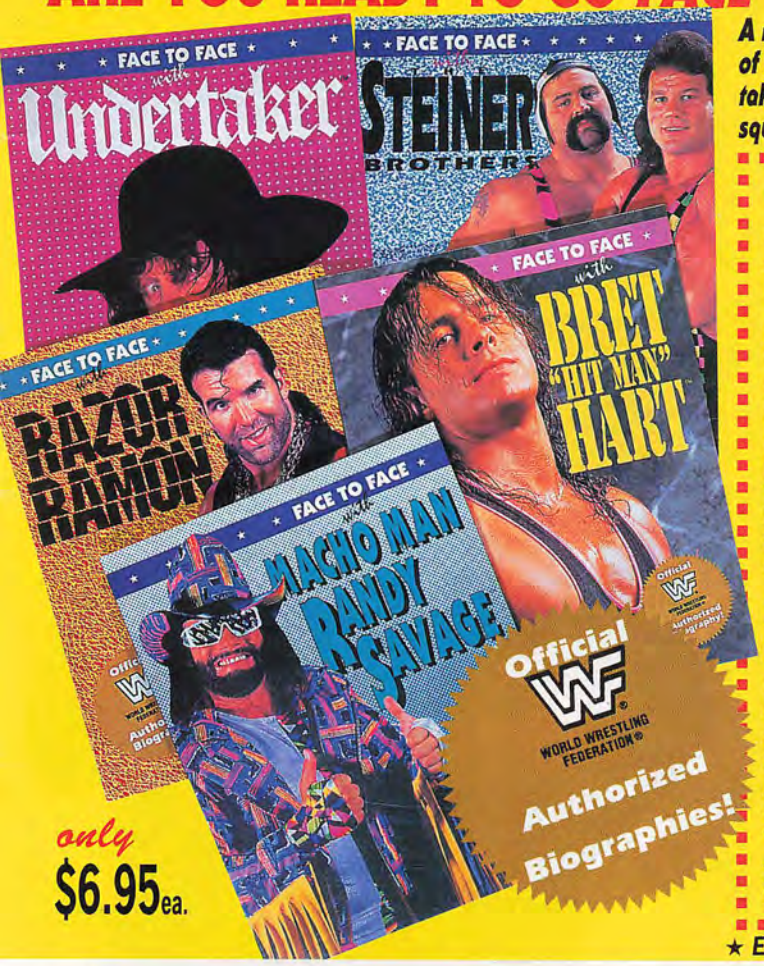


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## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE AND THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

# TURN YOUR BACK ON DRUGS

# NEWS BEAT hot off the press

# TRASHING TUNNEY?

World Wrestling Federation President Jack Tunney contacted us to say he believes that this magazine has been trashing him "in a most unfair fashion" of late. Granted, we do have a feature in this issue complaining that Tunney has not given Tatanka, the brave Native American, a fair shake. But that is the author's suggestion, not that of the editors. We like to allow everybody to have their say. That makes for a fair exchange of ideas, and it's our job to give our readers all sides of the story.

Tunney is totally visible. His decisions shape the future of the Federation and the athletes who compete under its rules. So, Mr. President, we must scrutinize you very carefully. When you make mistakes or when you are involved in controversy, we analyze it. That's why we showed you the manuscript of the article we are publishing on Tatanka and asked you to comment. And now we will present your comments.

"I truly enjoy the magazine and believe it adds a huge dimension to the enjoyment of the fans of World Wrestling Federation. You [the magazine] offer insights and information, not to mention glorious photos unavailable anywhere else. But I do not believe you understand the complexity and extent of my responsibilities as president of the World Wrestling Federation. Do you think that the Tonya Harding controversy has been intricate and controversial? Certainly, it has, but I deal with controversy every day. I must deal with the emotions, ambitions and futures of the greatest athletes in the world, including some of the largest, most aggressive men that exist. And, ultimately, I must ensure that the needs of the fans of the World Wrestling Federation are fully respected. Therefore, I must on occasion make decisions that are not universally popular. But they are thoughtful decisions, made after much soul-searching. You would not want my job. As for Tatanka—I admire him very much—his time will come. But I must look at the bigger picture. One person does not make the World Wrestling Federation. Anyone who has thought so is history."

# PICTURE THIS

Bastion Booger has been hanging around our photography department lately. He's come in three times. Seems Booger is trying to wangle some photographs of Luna Vachon out of our files. He doesn't only want the transparencies. He wants life-size enlargements. Says he's going to put them in every room of his house. (His house? Imagine what a garbage pit that must look like!)

Of course, we don't hand out photos from our files. But since Booger, after all, is a wrestler, we thought we might help him out. But before we did that, we decided to ask Luna's permission. It was an even less pleasurable experience than having Booger smelling up the office.

"Whadda you stupid idiots, you %&*#@ fools, mean, you want to give that walking landfill pictures of me," screamed Luna as she waved her arms and bared her claws. "I oughta rip your stinking eyes out of your stupid heads. I despise Booger. You know what? He's stalking me. Stalking. That's against the law. But I don't need any law to protect myself against that blob of rancid butterfat. I'm gonna take care of him myself. What I do to Booger is gonna make that Bobbitt broad look like a saint. And Booger won't be able to make money on it by going on talk shows. He won't be able to talk." WF

# fan forum

A communications channel for readers and the editors

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For the first time in its history, this magazine asked which nation had the most loyal Federation fans. Letters poured into our offices from all over the world. Unfortunately, we received most of them after this publication met its editorial deadlines. So *Fan Forum* only had time to publish responses from those of you here in the States.

"I think that America has the most loyal Federation fans because the World Wrestling Federation holds most of its matches in America." Jeffrey Lorenc, Auburn, New York.

*Editor's note:* Actually, Jeffrey, the Federation sanctions matches all over the world. For example, the superstars competed in Germany, the United Kingdom and Ireland last month, and, as this magazine hits newsstands, the athletes have just returned from a tour of Japan.

"The United States' wrestlers are the best Federation wrestlers. They always seem to win big matches. Lex Luger is a very good all-American wrestler." Patrick Malinowski, Berwyn, Illinois.

"I'd have to say that the United States has the most loyal Federation fans." Joey Krason, Queens, New York.

"The USA, 'land of the free and home of the brave,' is the country with the most loyal Federation fans. We buy Federation video games, merchandise and, of course, the *World Wrestling Federation Magazine*. Lots of my friends are loyal Federation fans." Nick Pokicki, Toledo, Ohio.

"I would have to say that not one country in the world has the most loyal Federation fans. The reason is that the Federation is just as popular here in the States as it is overseas." Brian Keith Sybert, Ford City, Pennsylvania.

"The U.S. definitely has the most loyal fans; I know many people who are. I read your magazine and watch every Federation broadcast on television...Sixteen years of loyalty and many, many more to come!" Kimberly Roles, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

"The United States has the most loyal wrestling fans. Look, every pay-per-view event is held here in the States, and every one sells out." Holland Landy, Westport, Massachusetts.

*Editor's note:* While that may be the case, Holland, you should be aware that *WrestleMania VI* was contested at the SkyDome in Toronto where well over 60,000 fans showed up. Also, *SummerSlam '92*—from Wembley Stadium in London, England—was a wild sellout. Both events were available on pay-per-view in the U.S.

"America has the most loyal fans. A good portion of Federation events are held in stadiums and major arenas in America, prompting thousands to attend each week. But, I also feel more big events should be held in other countries." Ryan Smith, Sewell, New Jersey.

"I think the U.S. has the most loyal fans because most all tickets (for Federation-sanctioned events) sell out in about a day or two." Matt Shadwick, Willard, Missouri.

"The USA has the most loyal Federation fans." Jeff Pelleriti, Tenino, Washington.

"Almost everybody knows what the Federation is about. Therefore, I think that the U.S. has the most—and the most loyal—fans." Scott Bishop, Dublin, California.

Now, our question. Let's get a reaction from fans around the world. WF

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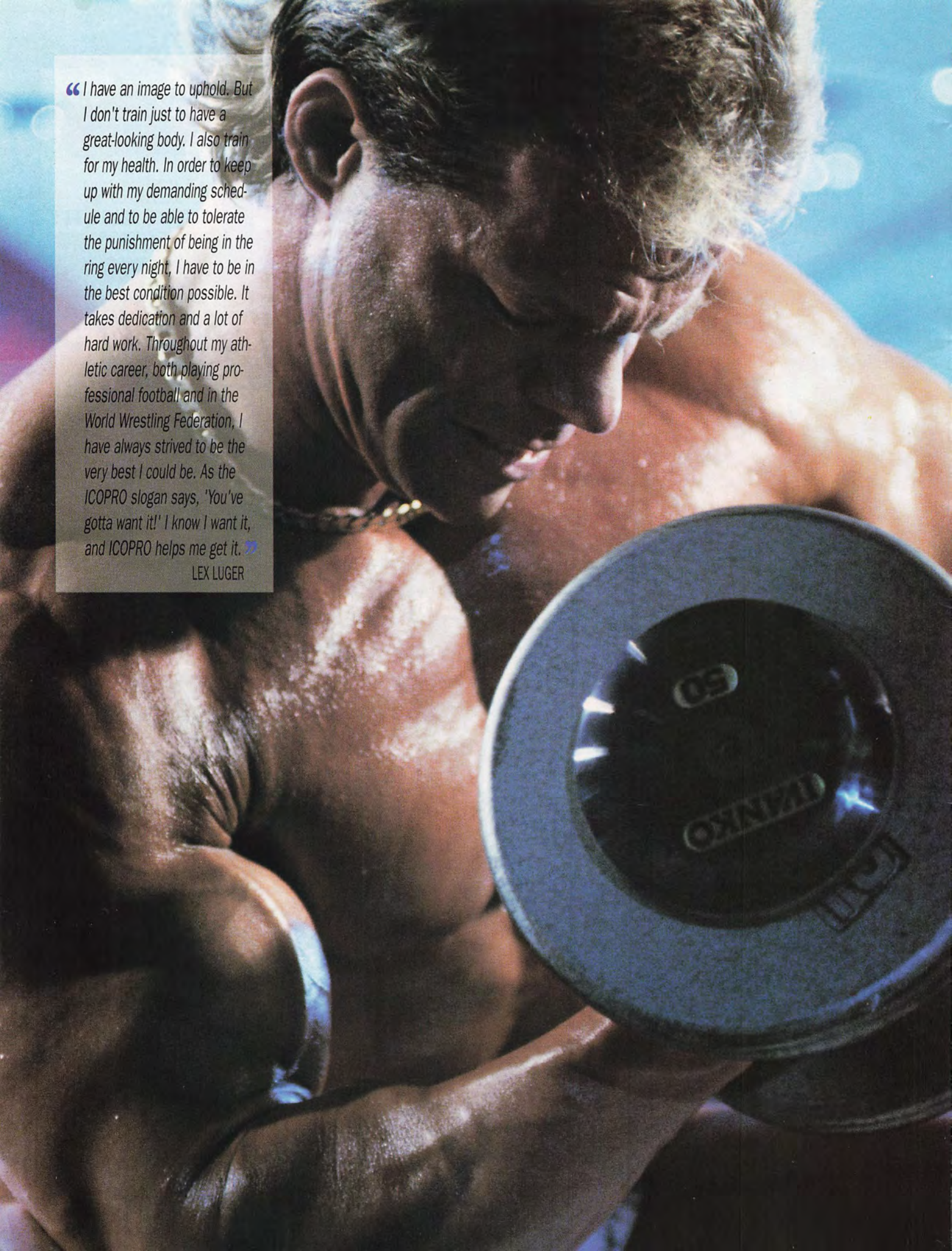

*"I have an image to uphold. But I don't train just to have a great-looking body. I also train for my health. In order to keep up with my demanding schedule and to be able to tolerate the punishment of being in the ring every night, I have to be in the best condition possible. It takes dedication and a lot of hard work. Throughout my athletic career, both playing professional football and in the World Wrestling Federation, I have always strived to be the very best I could be. As the ICOPRO slogan says, 'You've gotta want it!' I know I want it, and ICOPRO helps me get it."*

LEX LUGER

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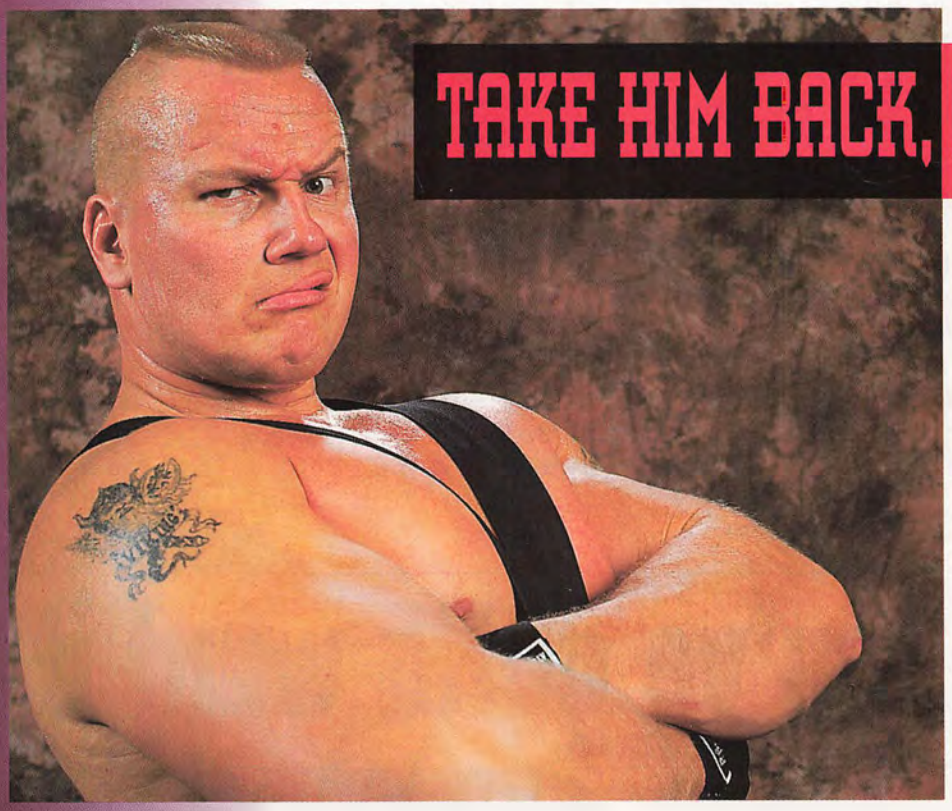
# TOUGH TALK

## TEAM 'EM UP

We've got a great idea for a new women's division tag team. Tonya Harding and Luna Vachon. They would complement each other very well. They could be called the Queens—the Ice Queen and Queen of Chaos. Tonya could provide the team with finesse and balance, while Luna adds the muscle, mayhem and foreign objects.



## TAKE HIM BACK, MR. PRESIDENT

**So now Finland has a new president, Marti Ahtisaari. He promises to unify his recession-wracked country and build stronger ties with the West. Marti, if you really want to generate Western good will, we've got an idea. Take back Ludvig Borga.**

# START YOUR ENGINE

Well, **Sparky Plugg**, we're waiting for you to put the pedal to the floor. You're a rookie, sure, but you talked lots about what you were going to do in the World Wrestling Federation. So let's start doing it. We've got a hunch that you're finding it a bit more difficult to compete in the ring than on the racetrack.

# BUDDIES

***THE QUEBECERS' ANTICS ARE DISGUSTING. ALL THAT BUDDY-BUDDY STUFF, THE HUGGING AND ALL. YOU KNOW WHAT? WE SAW THEM AT A RESTAURANT RECENTLY. THEY TRADE FORKS BETWEEN BITES. DISGUSTING.***

# personality profile

**FROM:**
**COOPERSTOWN, N.Y.**

**BIRTHDAY:**
**UNKNOWN**

**WEIGHT:**
**237 LBS.**

**HEIGHT:**
**6'2"**

**FAVORITE FOOD:**
**PEANUTS AND CRACKERJACK**

Go outside for a moment and take a deep breath. Can you smell it? That clean, crisp air can only remind you of one thing. Spring. That's right, as the old saying goes, "Spring is in the air," and several thoughts immediately come to mind during this period of new birth.

For one thing, most North Americans can look forward to longer days with warmer temperatures. The onset of spring marks the beginning of trout fishing and the return of leaves, flowers and migratory songbirds, such as robins. Spring also marks the return of baseball —a sport that is known as America's favorite pastime.

As this magazine goes to newsstands, baseball teams—from Little League all the way to Major League—are gearing up for the long playing season ahead. Even in the World Wrestling Federation this trend is evident.

Case in point is the Most Valuable Player, or MVP as he prefers to be called. MVP, a new arrival in the Federation, claims he was a legendary professional baseball player who hit more homers than Hank Aaron and stole more bases than Rickey Henderson.

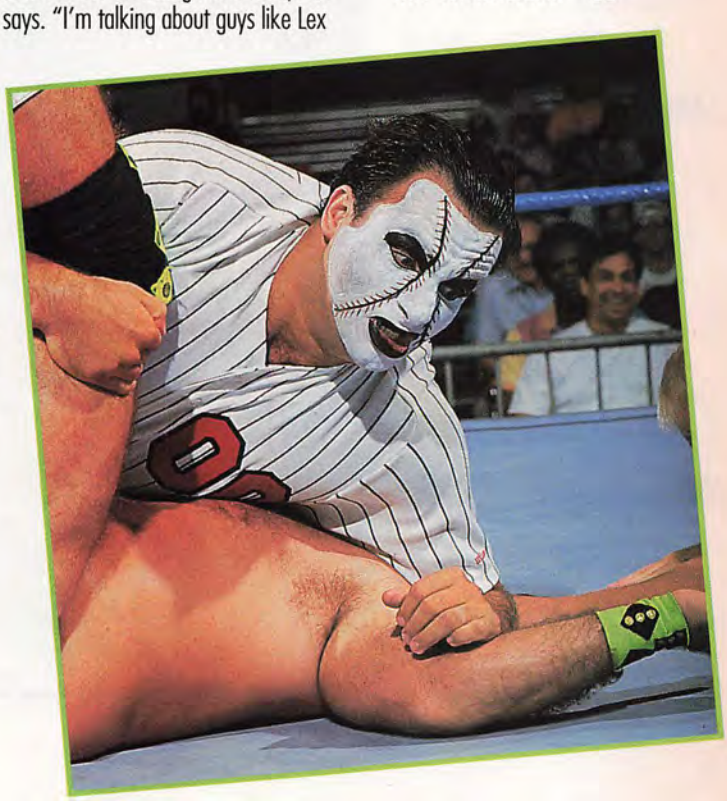
MVP also claims he's an exceptional Federation superstar and is willing to back up his declaration with action.

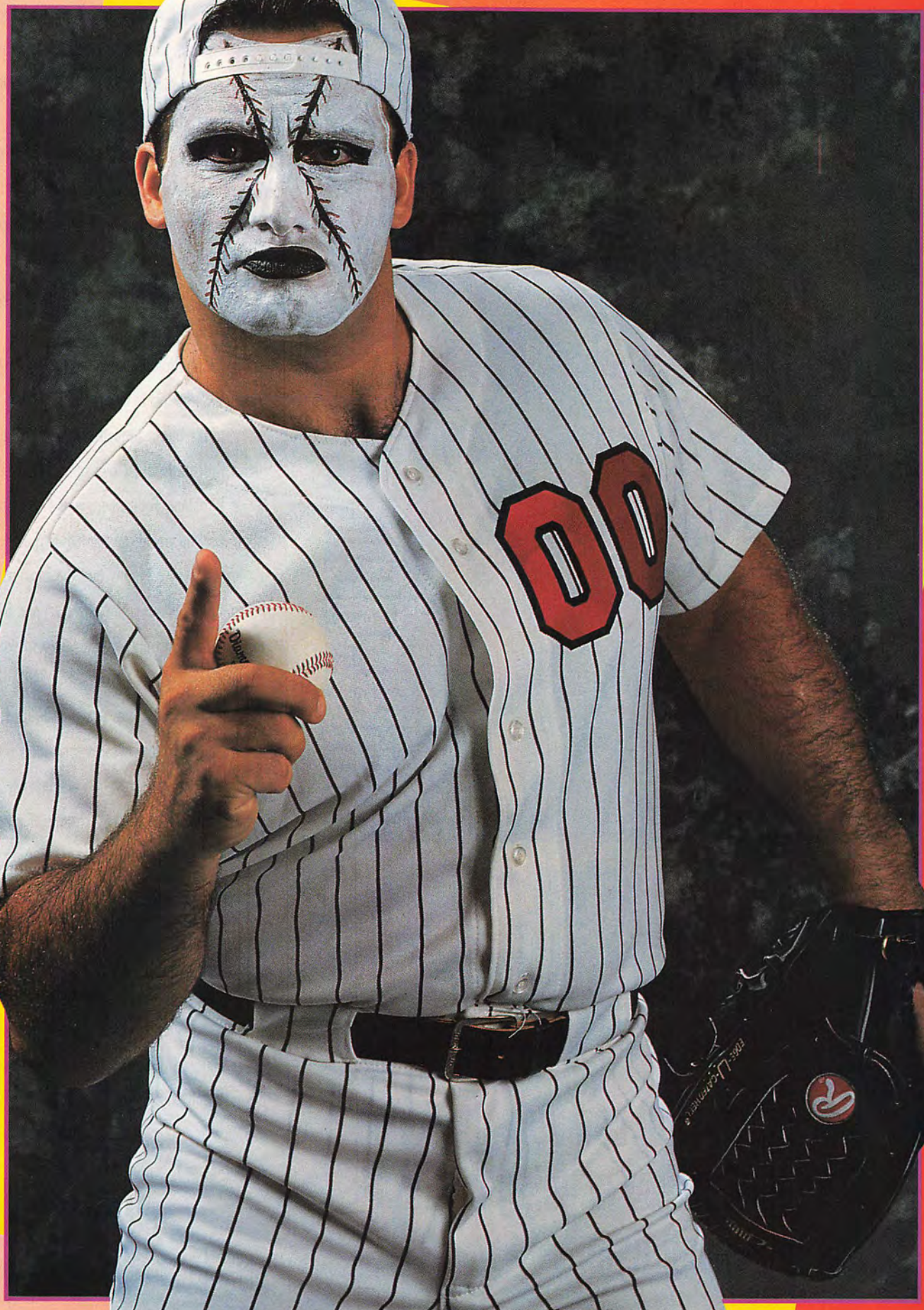
"There are a lot of so-called athletes in the World Wrestling Federation," he says. "I'm talking about guys like Lex Luger. He says he played football in the Canadian Football League. I say he's full of it! I'm also talking about guys like Macho Man Randy Savage. He says he played for the St. Louis Cardinals and all that. Well, I hear that he got cut from his Little League team because the coaches didn't like six-year-old kids to have beards and wear stupid glasses. Even if Savage did play baseball, which he never has, he would not have been an MVP, such as myself."

Those are brave words from a new face. However, MVP can—to a rather impressive degree—reinforce his banter with noteworthy ring skills. MVP is a cagey wrestler who often ambushes his opponents when they least expect it. He's also cruel and not beyond striking the opposition with illegal tactics when the referee's attention is diverted.

MVP prefers to choke and manhandle his opponents rather than defeat them with sound wrestling maneuvers and carefully planned strategies.

"I will be the MVP in the World Wrestling Federation just as I was the MVP in professional baseball," he brags. "It's that simple. In my baseball career, I made guys like Babe Ruth and Reggie Jackson look like mere chumps. The same will happen when MVP meets the tough competition in the Federation. Count on it! And when all is said and done, everybody will be saying this: 'MVP fever. Catch it.'" WF





**There is not a single person in the Federation who can stop the force of Adam Bomb. I'm going to win a title in record time.**

One of the most awesome and feared men in the World Wrestling Federation is the massive Adam Bomb. While not particularly known for his friendliness or accessibility, the *World Wrestling Federation Magazine* staff, undaunted in its quest for news, approached Bomb about doing a story. After telling him the interview was for the cover story in this issue, he agreed to talk to us. Here is what happened.

***Editors:*** Mr. Bomb, thanks for taking the time from your schedule to talk to us.

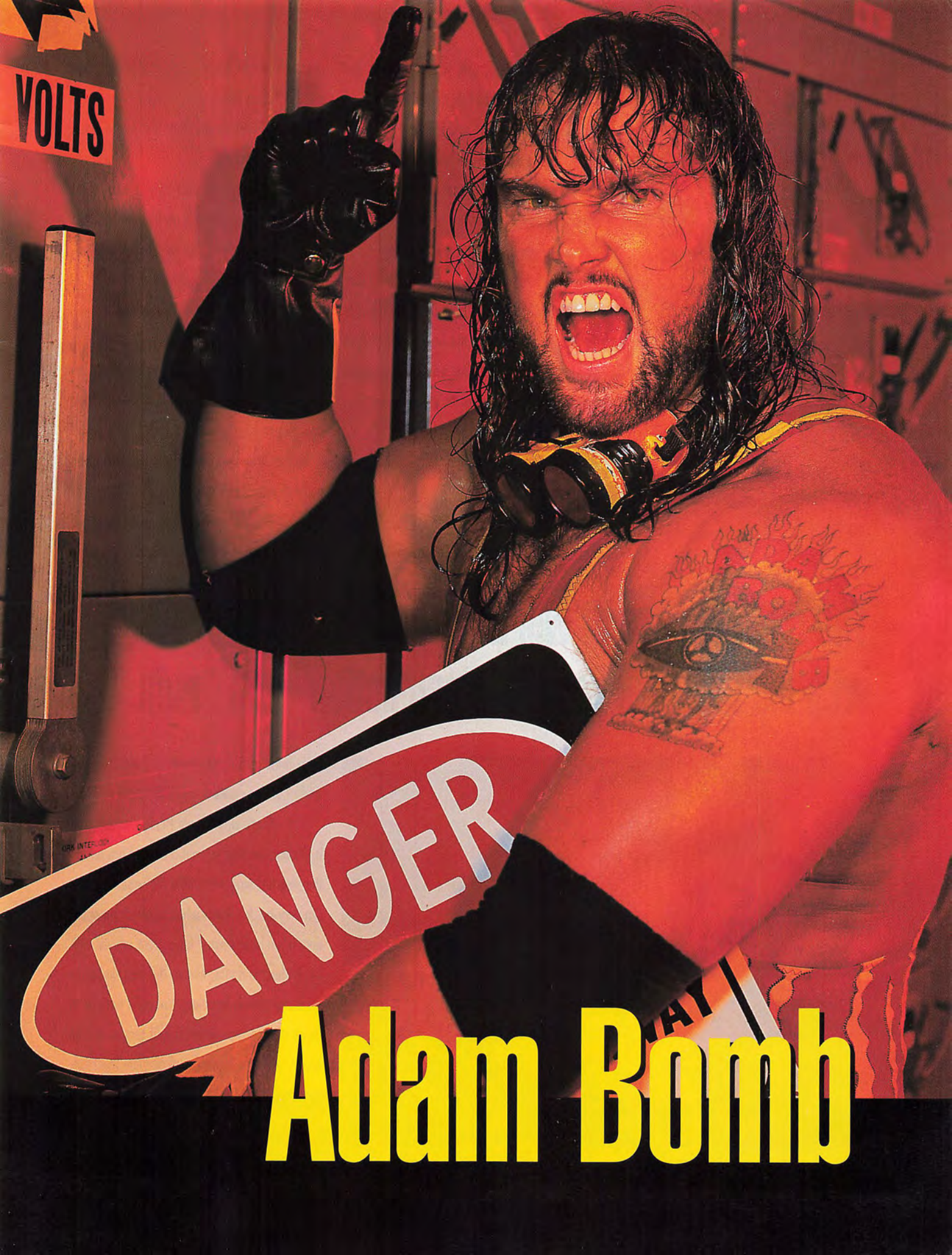
***Bomb:*** It's about time the magazine recognized the single most awesome force in the World Wrestling Federation, and I can understand why you would want to talk to me.

***Editors:*** Well, we know that the fans want to find out more about you, so here we are. By the way, would you mind sitting down so we can talk to you eye-to-eye?

***Bomb:*** Wait a minute. Are you being funny about the color of my eyes?

***Editors:*** Oh no. In fact, we are actually very surprised to see how they change. First they were blue, and suddenly they are turning kind of yellow. Is this usual?

***Bomb:*** For me it is. I have ocean blue eyes, but when I become intense—especially when I am in the ring—they turn to toxic yellow. That's when you'd better beware. Just don't make me mad. (Pausing a minute, then sitting down, Bomb adds): Hey, what happened to the last guy that I spoke to? Was he too afraid to come back to face me?




# Adam Bomb

**Editors:** Uhh, well, gee, we don't know. But we thought it would be nice to meet you and do the interview. You seem so interesting.

**Bomb:** Go ahead and call me Adam.

**Editors:** OK, Adam. We notice that your manager Harvey Wippleman isn't here today. Doesn't he usually talk for you?

**Bomb:** It's not your business where he is. But, if you must know, he is busy lining up matches for me. Usually I'm far too busy to spend time talking to journalists. But you had the good sense to put me on the cover of your magazine, so I made time for you.

**Editors:** Thanks! Can you tell us what your plans for the future are?

**Bomb:** I plan to go straight to the top. There is not a single person in the Federation who can stop the force of Adam Bomb. I'm going to win a title in record time.

**Editors:** Whom do you most fear in the World Wrestling Federation?

**Bomb:** (whose eyes have now turned bright yellow) Fear, fear, there is no fear, not a single ounce of fear in this 292 and a half pounds, almost 7-foot frame of awesomeness.

**Editors:** We didn't mean to upset you.

**Bomb:** OK. But remember, since I entered the World Wrestling Federation, I've been unstoppable. I'm the toughest and best wrestler that has stepped into the ring.

**Editors:** Why do you think no one has given you a chance at any titles?

**Bomb:** The champions don't want to sign a match with me. They are in fear of losing those belts, those prized possessions of theirs.

**Editors:** Do you think you'll get a chance?

**Bomb:** That's why I have Harvey working on it. It's obvious that without a doubt I am one of the smartest wrestlers within the squared circle. I'm very quick. I know when to attack an opponent when he is down. I have great athletic ability. Without a doubt, I have the best dropkicks for a big man in wrestling. I'm agile enough to be on the top rope within a split second and be able to deliver a launching clothesline from out-

## The most important words to remember in dealing with me are "carnage," "destruction" and "ruin."

side the ring over the top rope. I can be coming from any direction at any time.

***Editors:*** That's really impressive.

***Bomb:*** Just remember, you'll never know when or where wrestling's 10-megaton terror will strike next.

***Editors:*** Right, so what do you do for fun?

***Bomb:*** My fun is dismantling my opponent. I like being inside the ring every night teaching my opponents. The three most important words to remember in dealing with me are "carnage," "destruction" and "ruin."

***Editors:*** Moving along, we hear that you like to visit your home, Three Mile Island, and that you also have an eye on the Nevada Test Site for a vacation spot.

***Bomb:*** Listen up. Are you being funny about my eyes again?

***Editors:*** Gosh, no. It was just an unfortunate figure of speech that we happened to use.

***Bomb:*** Yes, I visit home for the contaminated water. And yeah, I plan to visit the test site. I think that it will make me feel right at home.

***Editors:*** We understand you get furious when you find that someone has been using drugs.

***Bomb:*** Here's what I think. A life with drugs is like a life at ground zero. It's nowhere to be, it's the bottom, it's stupid.

***Editors:*** Well, that sounds to us like a pretty normal statement to make.

***Bomb:*** What do you mean *normal*? Who wants to be normal? I'm above normal. I'm superior. I'm total destruction personified, but the people who are using drugs are destroying themselves. That is dumb personified.

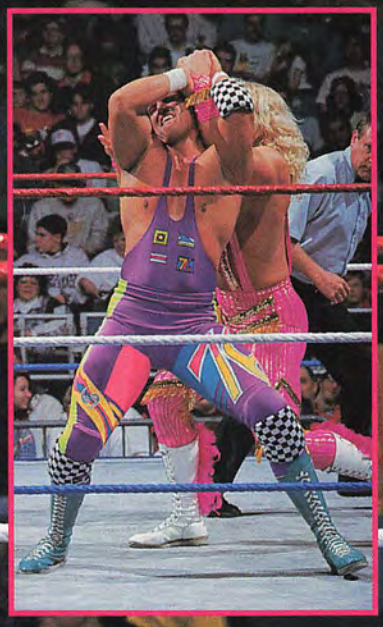
***Editors:*** Well, it's really been a pleasure talking to you today.

***Bomb:*** Yeah. Well, you'd better hope I like the picture of me on the cover.

***Editors:*** You will. WF

***EDITOR'S NOTE: THE CHARGED ATMOSPHERE AT OUR INTERVIEW WITH BOMB ALMOST CAUSED THE METAL DETECTOR AT THE AIRPORT TO BEEP OFF THE WALL AS WE WALKED THROUGH ON THE WAY HOME.***

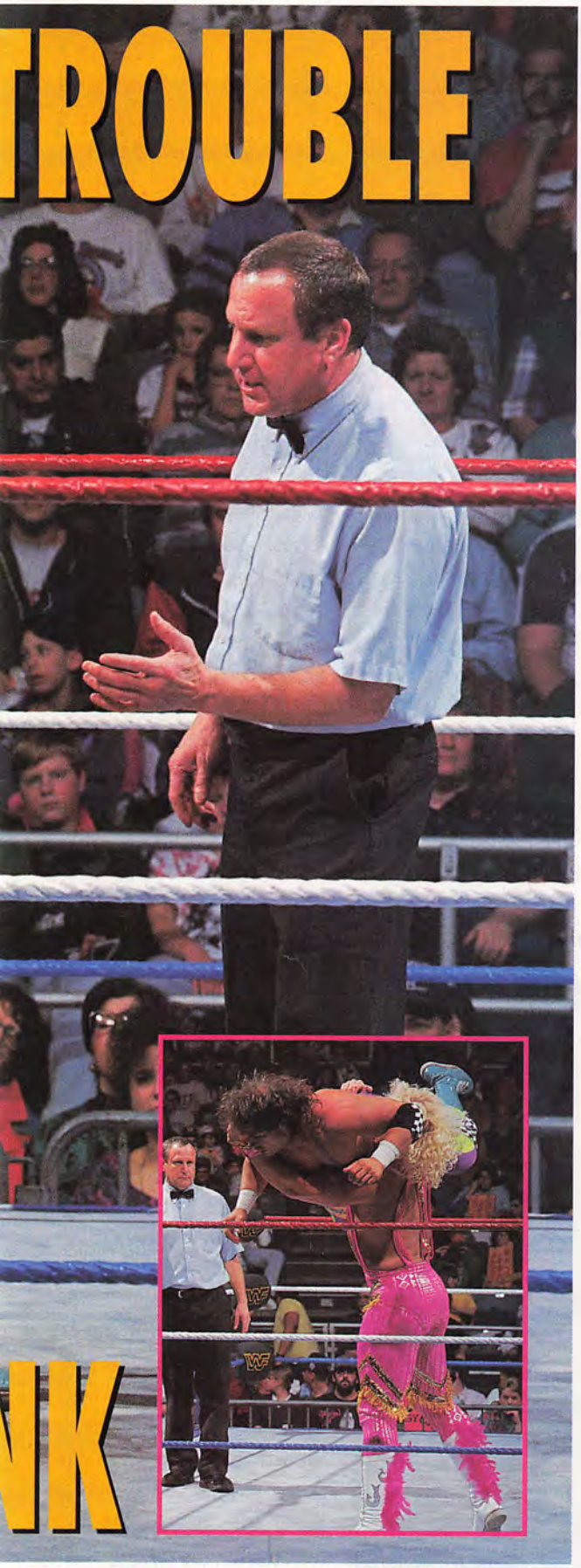
# DOUBLE J HAS DOUBLE T



# WITH SPARKY AND DOI

# BATTLE OF THE TITANS

BY LOU GIANFRIDDO




## THE JOKE'S ON JARRETT

A week before Double J Jeff Jarrett met Thurman "Sparky" Plugg on *World Wrestling Federation Superstars*, he had a lot to say. Jarrett stormed the announce position and interrupted hosts Vince McMahon and Johnny Polo, and he predicted an easy victory for himself against Plugg.

"Sparky thinks that he's gonna jump-start his way in the World Wrestling Federation," Jarrett said. "That grease monkey's gonna get beat by the greatest wrestler in the JJF [his name for the World Wrestling Federation]."

However, Double J—for the first time since he entered the World Wrestling Federation—had to eat his words. He was befuddled by Sparky Plugg and Doink the Clown. Here's what happened when they met at Lehigh University's Stabler Arena in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

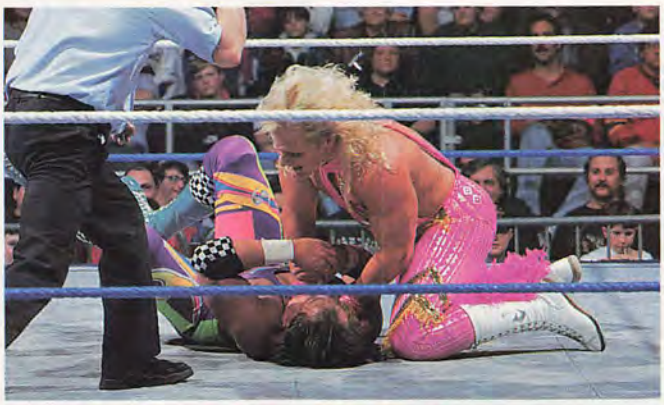
It should be noted that Double J and Sparky are not strangers to one another by any means. When both wrestlers competed for the USWA, they waged legendary wars. In Bethlehem, they continued their feud.

Double J immediately seized control of the contest. Jarrett, who claims he is Music City's favorite son and songster, stunned Plugg with a symphony of moves. In rapid succession, Jarrett hammered Sparky with hammerlocks, hip tosses and a bone-rattling bodyslam.

These tactics, though, only served to fire Plugg's engines. He bounded off the ropes and blasted Jarrett with several shoulder-blocks. Plugg then shifted gears and hit his arrogant foe with a crossbodyblock and armdrags before immobilizing Double J with a vicious armbar.

Double J was in trouble and resorted to unruly methods to reclaim the momentum. He struggled to his feet and maneu-

**Recently, Sparky Plugg and Double J Jeff Jarrett battled one another on *Federation Superstars*.**



**Sparky wound up beating Double J twice—one three-count was registered by Doink the Clown.**

vered Plugg into a corner. When the referee wedged between the athletes for a clean break, Jarrett reached out and tagged Sparky with a solid punch to the jaw. It was a sucker shot, but those are the types of shots that have made Double J such a success in the wrestling world.

Double J turned up the heat. He rammed Sparky's head into the turnbuckle and elbowed him to the canvas. Double J unloaded on Sparky with heavy boots and even used the bottom rope to choke him.

Jarrett was relentless in his quest for victory. He bounced hammerlike punches off Sparky's noggin and suplexed him for good measure.

It looked as if Plugg was finished. He was sluggish and exhausted to the point of confusion. Perhaps sensing Plugg's condition, Jarrett continued his assault. He choked Plugg and then hurled him into the turnbuckles. Plugg struck the pads with tremendous force, and had it not been for the ropes, he would have almost certainly sailed right over the top and onto the cement floor.

But fate had other plans. As Sparky attempted to maintain his balance in the corner, Double J kicked up his heels and charged at his opponent with an elbow. Relying more on instinct than reflex, Sparky moved out of harm's way at the last moment before mustering the strength to slam Jarrett.

It was a brief comeback. After Sparky missed a clothesline, Double J used the same tactic to floor his opponent. He then threw Sparky to the ropes and connected with a slicing dropkick, which is one of Double J's signature moves. That was it. Sparky Plugg, the stock car driver, appeared to have finally crashed.

Double J covered his fallen opponent, and the referee registered the three-count. Gloating, Double J jumped to his feet and proclaimed, "See, ol' Double J told you so."

Maybe he "told them so," but referee Earl Hebner had other words for the superstar. Hebner looked down after he had made the count and noticed Plugg's leg draped across the lower ropes. The referee retracted his decision and ordered the match to continue. When he told Jarrett the news, the Nashville native freaked out. He got in Hebner's face and screamed in the same manner as would a baby who discovered that his candy was taken.

While Jarrett was ranting and raving, Sparky cleared the cobwebs and crept behind Double J. He rolled him up and almost got the three-count.

The battle then ebbed and flowed in both men's favors. Sparky scored with suplexes; Double J, with stiff elbows and questionable kicks and kneelifts. Sparky tallied up a few two-counts when he snatched Jarrett in a sunset flip and a backslide; Double J countered with hard rights and an Irish whip to the turnbuckle.

As Sparky recoiled from the impact of the Irish whip, Double J charged at his opponent for a shoulderblock. Just when he was in range, however, Sparky side-stepped Jarrett and clipped him with a clothesline, flooring him. Sparky then covered Double J and got the win, his first major victory since he screeched into the Federation some months ago.

Although Jarrett's foot was on the ropes during the count, the referee didn't notice and thus allowed his decision stand. At this, Jarrett lost his marbles. He threw chairs and debris in the ring. The timekeeper's bell went next, all to protest the referee's ruling.

Johnny Polo, who called the match live, rushed to ringside to interview and console his pal.

"That was the crime of the century!" Polo said of the contest's outcome.

"Get out here, Sparky Plugg!" Jarrett said. "I ain't leaving until Sparky Plugg comes back to the ring."

Just then, someone was coming to the ring, all right, but that someone wasn't Sparky Plugg. He was Doink the Clown. Doink, flanked by Dink, was going to the ring for his scheduled matchup.

As soon as Doink made his way to the ropes, Double J—who was still enraged—grabbed a chair and attempted to blast Doink with it. Fortunately, the court jester moved in the nick of time. When Doink finally got between the ropes, Double J really turned hostile. He raised the foreign object and threatened to use it.

Before he could, however, Sparky, who had apparently heard Double J's comments in the locker room, raced to the ring and surprised Jarrett with an inside cradle. Now there would be no dispute. Doink dropped to the mat and counted Jarrett's shoulders for a three-count.

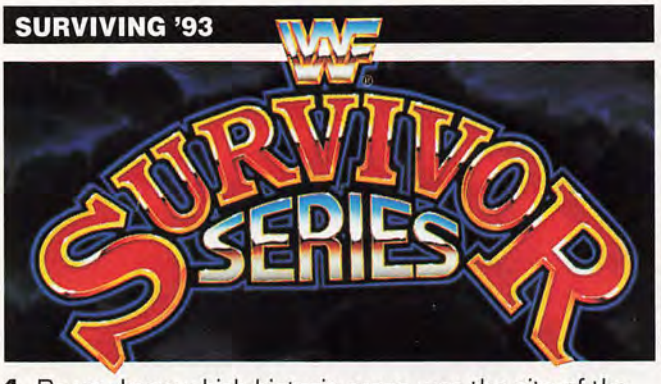
Double J had double trouble: He was beaten two times in one evening. These days, Jarrett has two headaches that he must remedy in the near future or else pay an additional price for his extreme arrogance—that's right, Double J, arrogance—A double-R O G A N C E.

# Trivia

By Larry Humber

If trivia is your thing, you are in for a treat. There are five categories of questions in our Trivia Quiz. Give yourself one point for answering the first question in each category, two points for answering the second and three for the third, the most difficult. A perfect score is 30. If you score between 25-30, you certainly have been keeping up on Federation happenings. Between 20-25 is also good. Between 15-20 isn't bad, but less than 10 just won't do.

## SURVIVING '93




1. Do you know which historic arena was the site of the 1993 *Survivor Series*?
2. What television game-show host attended the *Series*?
3. Who was there at the end of the evening to raise Lex Luger's hand?

## HEADS UP

1. Where did the Head Shrinkers grow up?
2. They used to catch fish in a unique way. Can you explain?
3. What beasts did they used to hunt for in the jungles where they were raised?

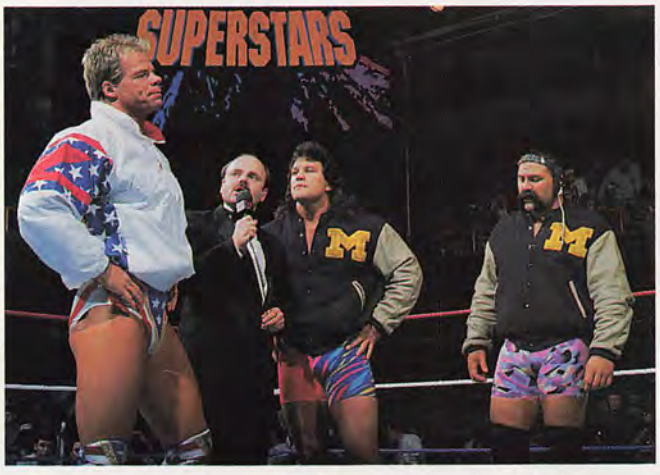
## MARTY

1. Which, according to former Rocker Marty Jannetty, is the Federation's top tag team today?
2. What does Jannetty say is his greatest achievement in the ring?
3. Marty is known for his charity work, including an appearance on whose telethon?

## AN EASTERN SLANT

1. Why hasn't Federation President Jack Tunney forbidden Mr. Fuji's use of salt at ringside?
2. What kind of cars does Crush drive?
3. Macho Man Randy Savage recently returned from a promotional tour of Asia. Can you name at least three of the six countries that he visited on this tour?

## WHAT'S NEXT, LEX?




1. What was the name of the team captained by Luger at the '93 *Survivor Series*?
2. The Steiner Brothers, Rick and Scott, and who else made up Luger's team?
3. Yokozuna captained the opposing team. His teammates were Federation Tag Team Champions the Quebecers, Jacques and Pierre, and Ludvig Borga. What was the name of this mighty foursome?

The answers are: **SURVIVING '93,** the Boston Garden, Ray Combs of *Family Feud*, and Santa Claus; **HEADS UP,** Samoa, with their mouths, and wild pigs; **MARTY,** the Steiners, winning the Intercontinental Belt, and Jerry Lewis' telethon; **AN EASTERN SLANT,** Tunney allows it because it is part of a traditional ritual, Japanese ones, and three of India, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore; **WHAT'S NEXT, LEX,** the All-Americans, the Undertaker, and Foreign Fanatics.

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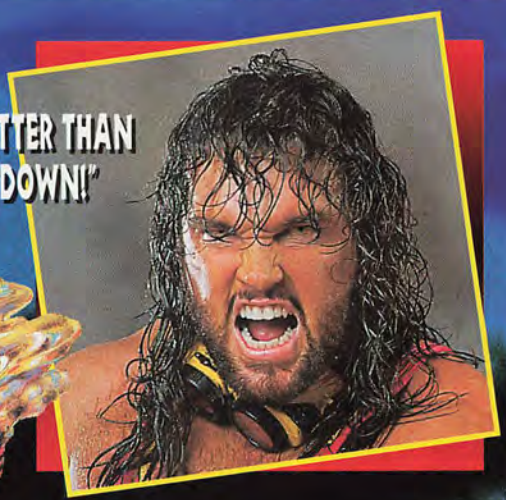
# VIDEO GAME REVIEW

BY THE INSTIGATOR & T-BOY

## ADAM BOMB'S SUPERSTAR TIP

**TIP: When you can't beat an opponent who's using his special moves, insult him to drain his inner strength.**

"THIS GAME IS BETTER THAN A NUCLEAR MELTDOWN!"



JETTA

Do you have what it takes to face the Eternal Champion?

MIDKNIGHT

The six-button control pad is a definite advantage.

LARCEN

## DATABASE

| | |
|---|---|
| GAME TITLE | |
| ETERNAL CHAMPIONS | |
| MACHINE | |
| GENESIS | |
| MANUFACTURER | |
| SEGA | |
| THEME | |
| FIGHTER | |
| LEVELS | MEGS |
| NA | 24 |
| PLAYERS | EST. PRICE |
| 1-2 | $69.99 |

Nine of the greatest fighters in history who have died prematurely have been chosen for the ultimate contest by the Eternal Champion, an entity who keeps the balance between good and evil. The survivor will regain his life in time to restore balance to the world.

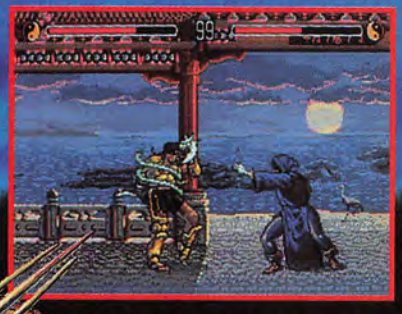
Choose from nine of these greatest fighters who all give you an abundance of moves. Master your skills in the training mode against a holographic image, a practice sphere or enter the battle room where you fight your way through opponents and deadly objects. Take your practice sessions seriously and learn every move your opponent has to offer. You will need to be the best you can to enter the tournament mode. *Eternal Champions* can be used with the Activator to truly interact with the game, but we recommend a six-button arcade pad. There are too many moves to effectively use the Activator or the standard three-button control pad. *Eternal Champions* has many great options you can control, like instant replay, fighting speeds, length of battles and match conditions.

*Eternal Champions* definitely gives *Mortal Kombat* a run for its money with great graphics, excellent fighting techniques and an incredible number of moves for each champion. Good luck in your quest to become an Eternal Champion.

**OVERALL RATING: 8**

# ETERNAL CHAMPIONS™

RAX

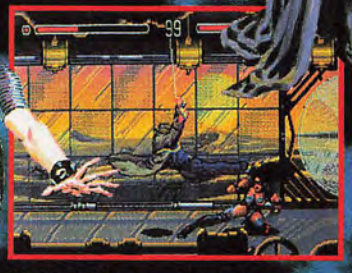


In single elimination mode up to 32 players can compete together.

Over 35 action-packed moves for each character.

SHADOW

TRIDENT



Utilize the training room to sharpen your fighting skills.

XAVIER

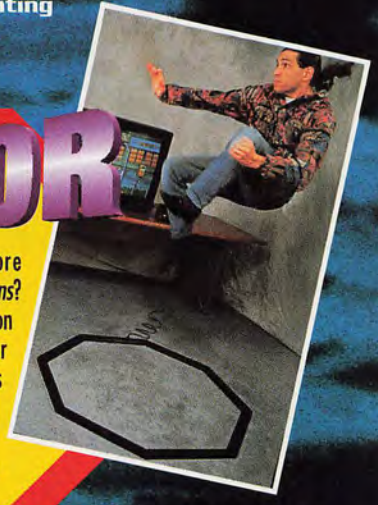
BLADE

Are you good enough to find the secret overkills?

SLASH

## THE ACTIVATOR

Want to add even more excitement to *Eternal Champions*? Sega's Activator allows the action on screen to respond to your body movement. Not only does this 8-sided wonder provide a new level of realism, but it will also give you a killer workout.



Become a part of the game with the Activator.

By Vince Russo

# Tatanka

## SCALPED BY THE FOX

• *Editor's Note: The opinions of the author are not necessarily those of this magazine.*

The year was 1626. Dutchman Peter Minuit sailed to North America where his people had established the province of New Netherland along the Hudson River and on the southern tip of Manhattan Island. Minuit, who was director general of the province, traded a few trinkets and merchandise worth 60 guilders (24 dollars) to the Wappinger Indians for the island. The Indians thought they were granting the right to share the land, but the Dutch considered it a purchase. The Wappinger tribe had been scalped!

The year is now 1994. Our treatment of the Native Americans has come a long way. Over the years we have shown empathy toward the Indians, recognizing our past wrongdoings. Hollywood has even gone as far as telling their story numerous times on the silver screen. Most recently Daniel Day-Lewis was the *Last of the Mohicans*, as Kevin Costner was *Dancing with Wolves*. *Geronimo* is already being billed as one of the greatest epics of all time. It took some 368 years, but the Native Americans seem to finally be getting their due. Or so it may seem.

I have spoken about the silver fox of the World Wrestling Federation before. He is the head honcho, the boss or shall we appropriately say, the chief. He is President Jack Tunney. While Tunney's duty is to uphold truth, justice and the American way in the Federation, many insiders see a horse of a very different color. As the world seems to be reaching out to the Native Americans, Mr. Tunney is being labeled as an Indian giver!

It has been two years since he galloped out of the sunset and into the World Wrestling Federation. He is a Native American from the Lumbee Tribe. His name is Tatanka. He made the journey from his homeland to represent his people. He wanted to show the world the true colors of the American Indian. In defending the honor of his ancestors, a streak of red ran down his scalp, symbolizing the blood shed by his brothers. Possessing an upper torso molded in granite and two tree-trunk limbs that filled his moccasin high-tops, this young warrior was ready

*Many feel that Tatanka is worthy of a major title shot in the Federation. He may soon get his chance.*

for much more than a tea party; he was ready for war!

For 21 months Tatanka successfully lassoed every cowboy that had moseyed his way. In the process of hunting opponents and gathering wins, he strung together one of the longest winning streaks in the history of the World Wrestling Federation. Ironically enough, during that stretch Tatanka was granted only one title shot. At *WrestleMania IX,* the Native American went at it with the Boy Toy himself: Shawn Michaels. Tatanka gave Michaels everything he had, throwing every chop in the book at him. With the Indian on the warpath, the Sexy Boy knew his days as Intercontinental Champion were numbered. In an act of desperation, Michaels successfully got himself disqualified in order to retain the gold. Needless to say, the Boy Toy never signed for a rematch.

Over the next eight months, Tatanka's record remained unblemished. However, to everyone's amazement, the young brave was never awarded another title shot. Last October, Tatanka's trail of victories came to an abrupt end. Prior to the *Survivor Series*, the monster from Helsinki, Ludvig Borga, put the Indian to rest. With help from his

It's obvious that Native American

comrade Yokozuna, Borga squashed Tatanka until the beaten brave had to be scraped from the canvas. The pummeling forced the Native American to sit out the *Survivor Series*, but he successfully came back in a blaze of glory by pinning Bam Bam Bigelow at the *Royal Rumble.* The Beast from the East was a last-minute replacement for

Tatanka should be wearing more

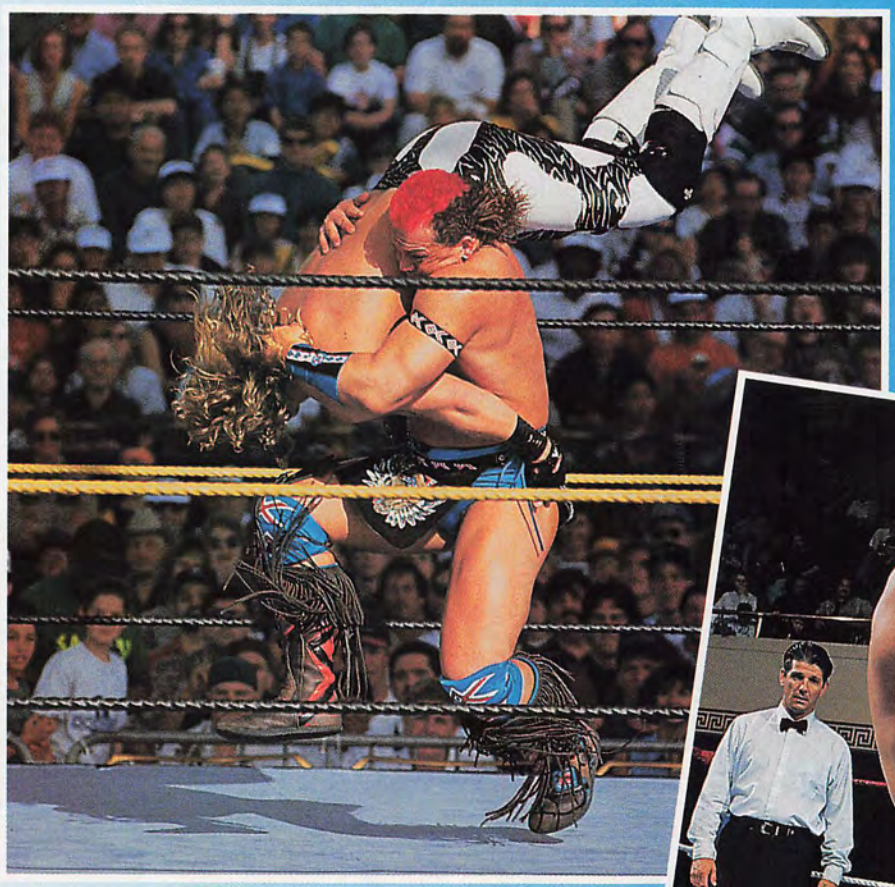
Borga, who mysteriously bowed out of the rematch due to a questionable injury.

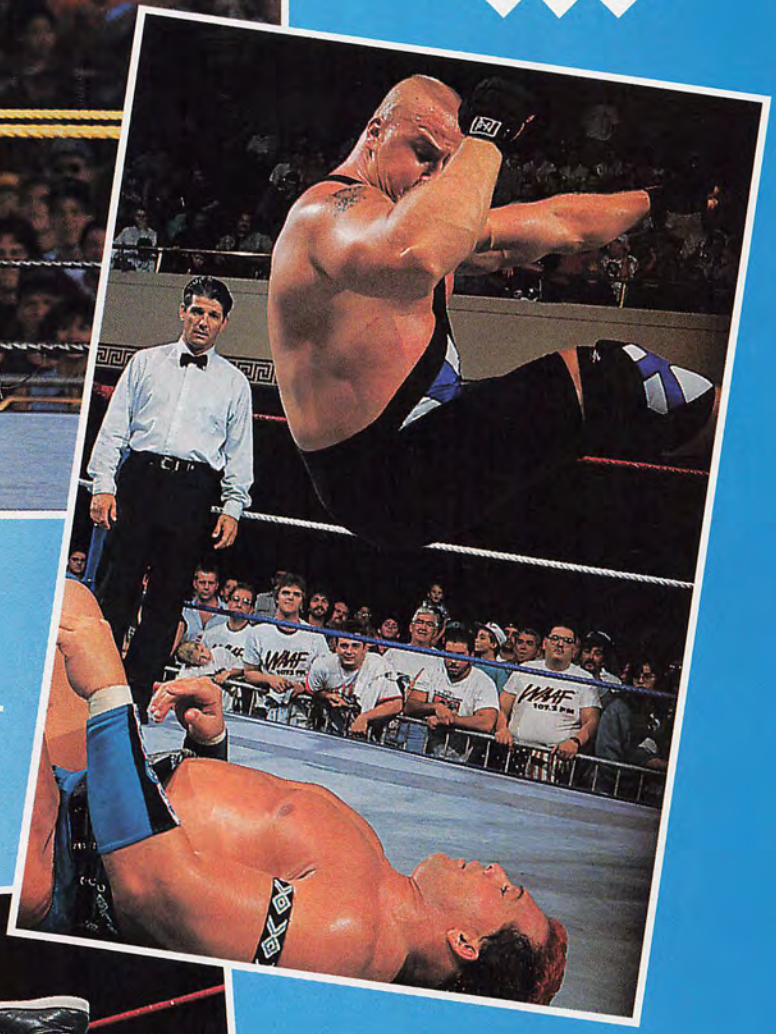
Meanwhile, up in Titan Tower the silver fox leisurely sits back in his chair, his mighty pen freely inking championship matches for everyone....except Tatanka. What gives, Tunney? Following the *Royal Rumble*, you couldn't wait to

around his waist than rawhide.

toss the silver dollar to see who was going to get the title shot at Yokozuna at *WrestleMania X*. How about breaking out the Indian head nickel and giving Tatanka a shot? In your defense, it may be understandable that there is currently a logjam at the top of the championship division with many worthy contenders. However, what about the Intercontinental division? IRS was granted a title shot at Razor Ramon at the *Royal Rumble*, and what had he done lately? The fact is, not only does the Native American deserve a shot, but the fans would love to see it. Why not sign the contract? Whoever is Intercontinental Champion following *WrestleMania X*, then there would be no doubt in your mind that Tatanka will clearly be a top contender.

In closing, I am calling for this to be Tunney's last stand. It is obvious to everyone concerned that Tatanka should be wearing more around his waist than rawhide.





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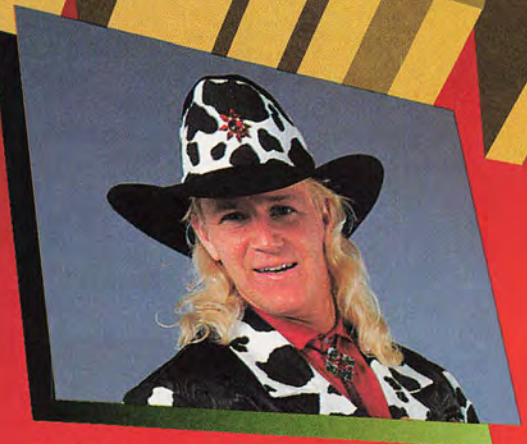

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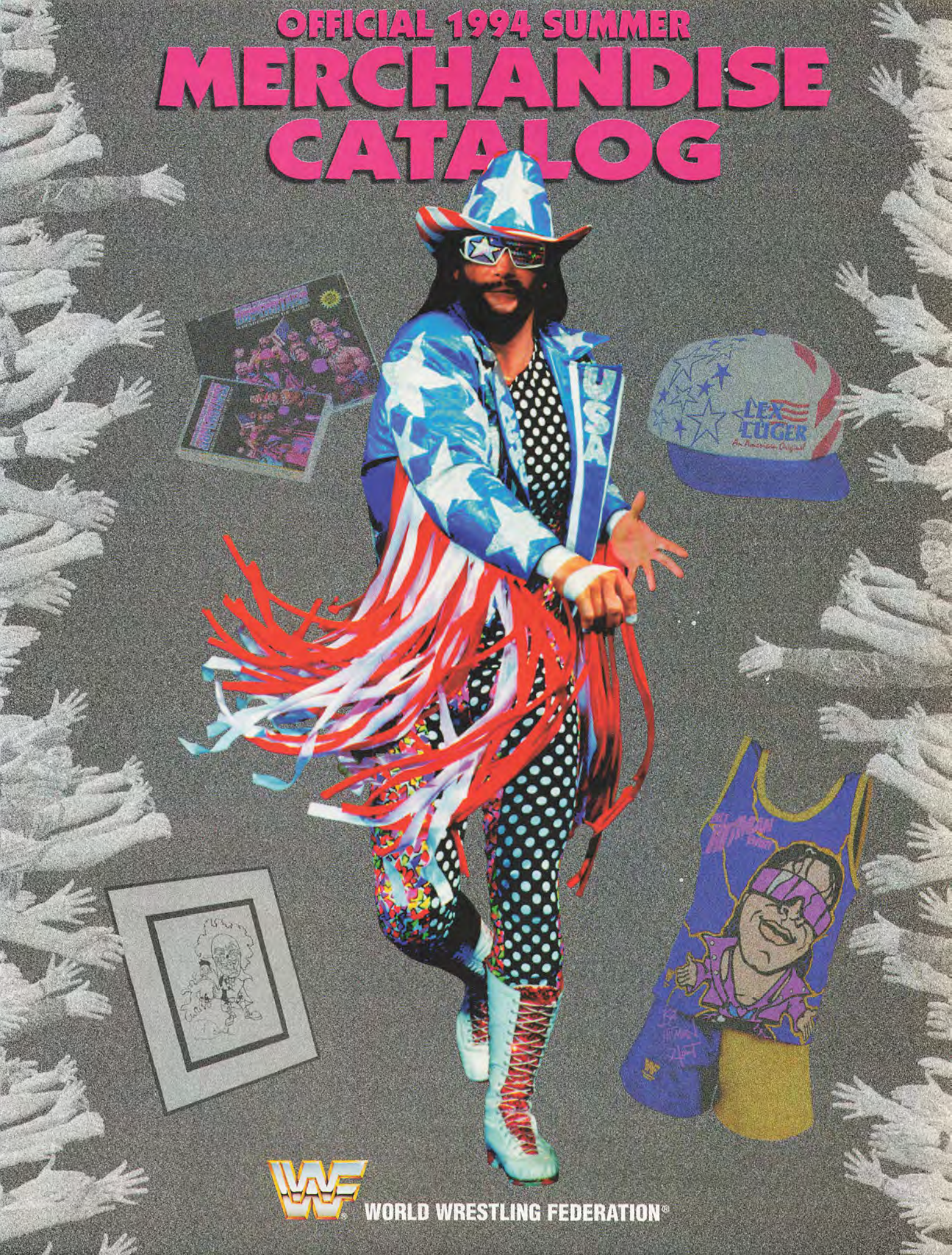


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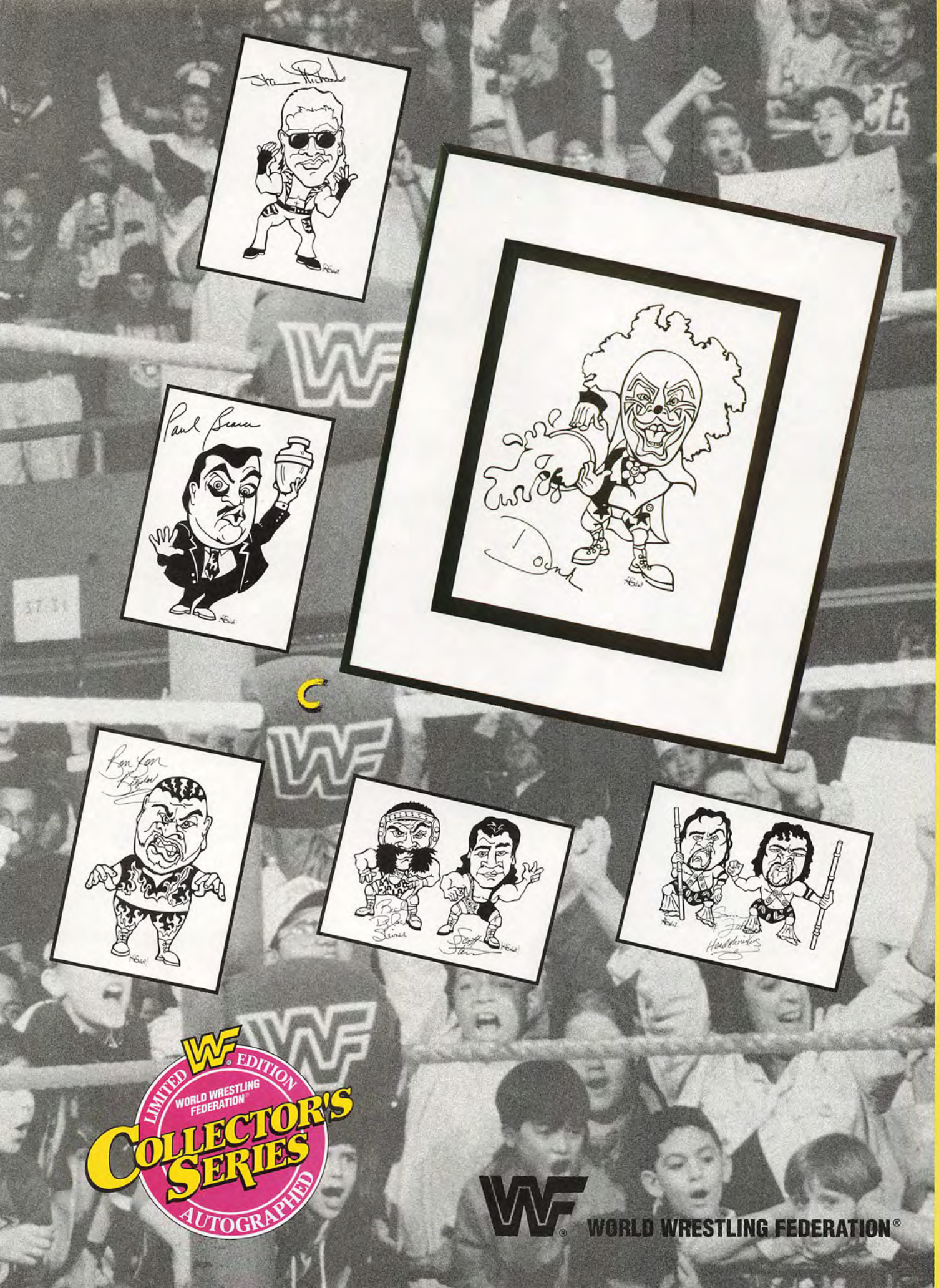
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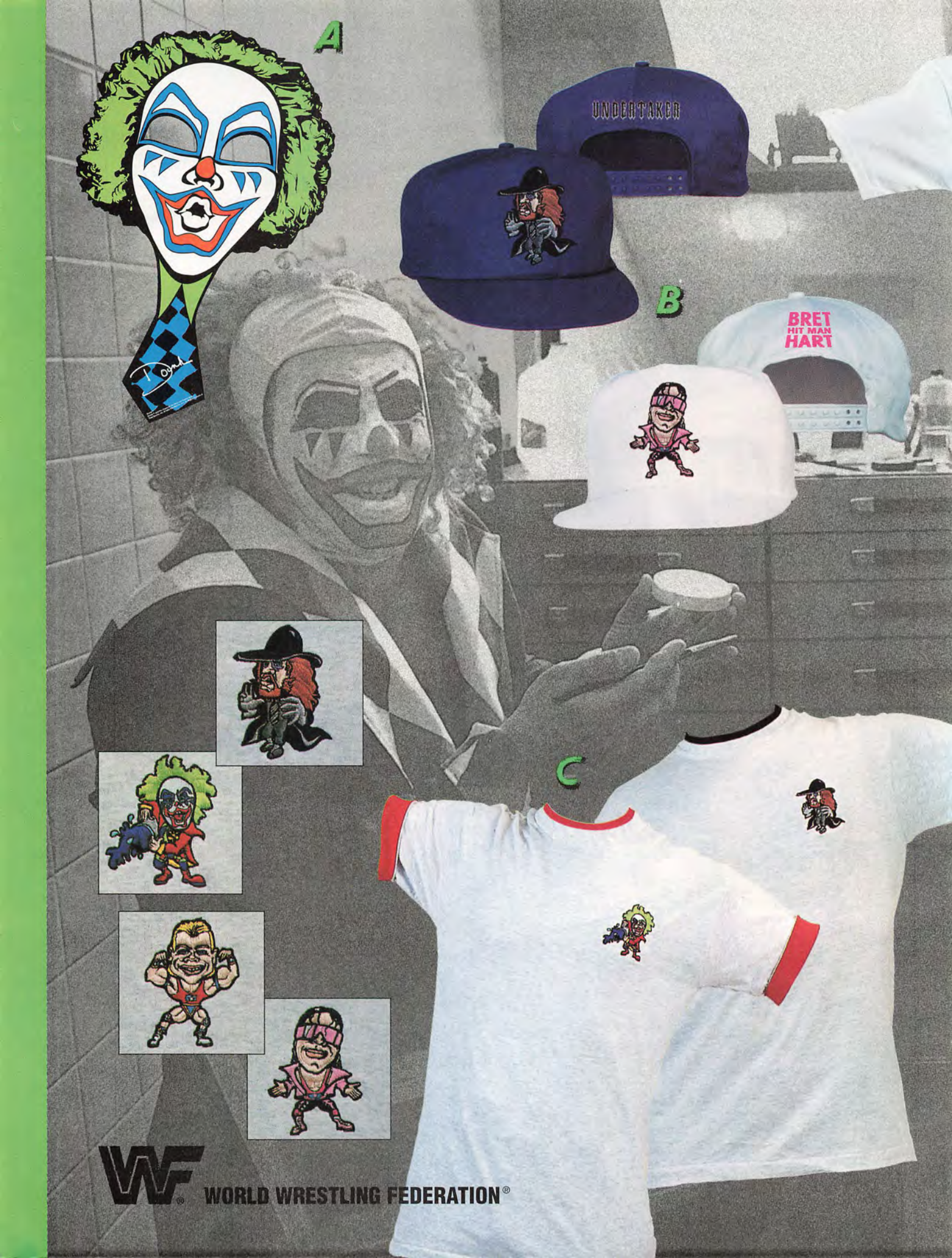
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# LOOK OUT, BIG APPLE!

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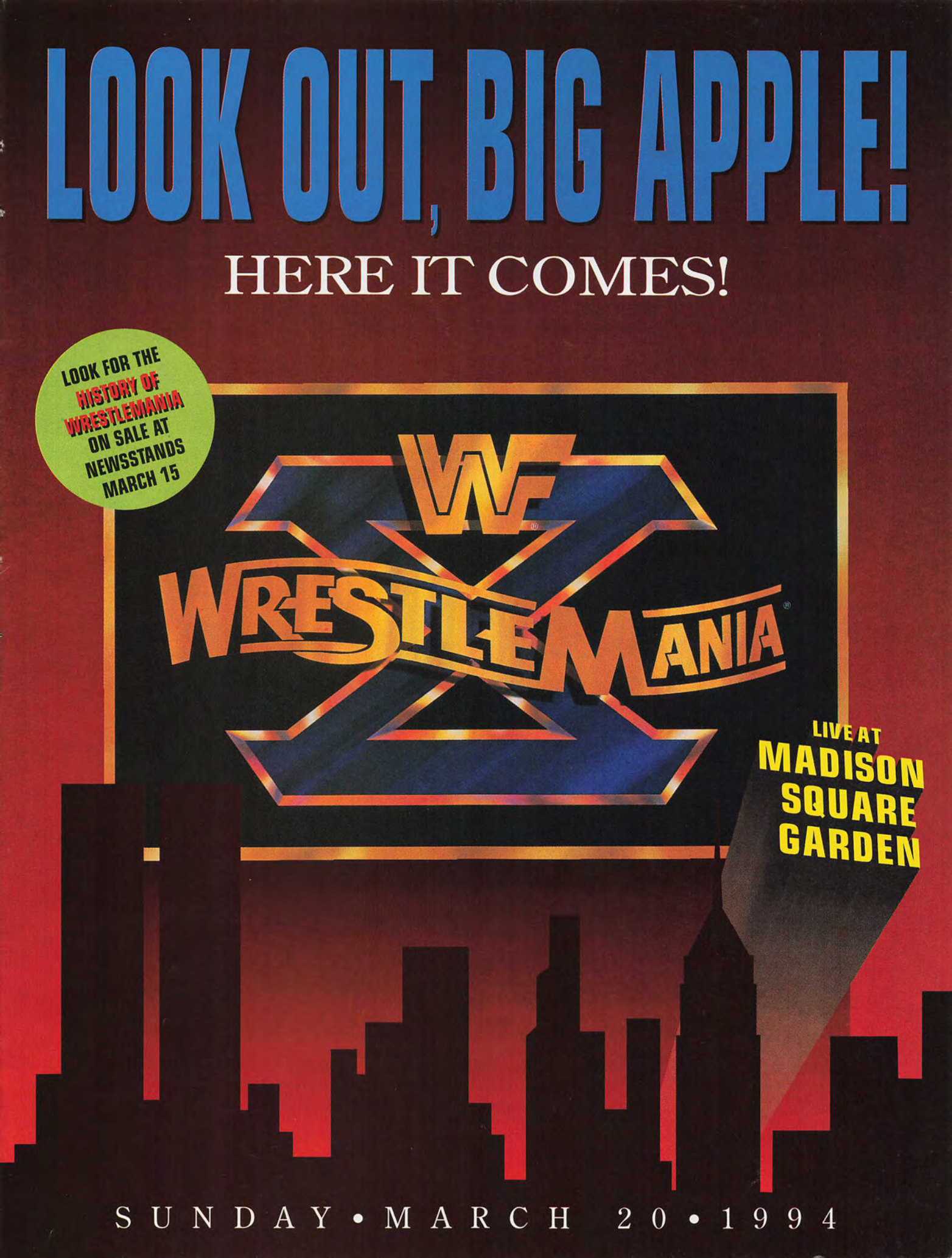
LOOK FOR THE HISTORY OF WRESTLEMANIA ON SALE AT NEWSSTANDS MARCH 15




SUNDAY • MARCH 20 • 1994

## BY ROSS FORMAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT THAT IRWIN R. SCHYSTER IS ALL BUSINESS IN THE RING—JUST LOOK AT HIS FACE WITH THAT FULL-TIME NASTY DISPOSITION. WELL, I CAN NOW ATTEST THAT THE MAT MAULER—WHO IS KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD AS IRS—IS JUST AS SERIOUS ABOUT HIS OUT-OF-THE-RING BUSINESS.

NORMALLY I'LL INTERVIEW THE FEDERATION SUPERSTARS BACKSTAGE AT ARENAS, SUCH AS THE ROSEMONT (ILL.) HORIZON, WHICH THE FEDERATION VISITS ON A REGULAR BASIS. HOWEVER, IRS INSISTED THAT I MEET HIM HERE AT HIS PRIVATE OFFICE. HE ADDED THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE TALKING IN ARENAS; HE NEEDS THAT TIME "TO CATCH ALL THE TAX CHEATS OUT THERE."

I ARRIVED AT HIS OFFICE ABOUT 10 MINUTES BEFORE OUR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME AND WAS GREETED BY A SECRETARY WITH AS MUCH PERSONALITY AS LUNA VACHON—AND SHE WAS ABOUT AS GOOD-LOOKING AS LUNA. ANYWAY, THE SECRETARY SAID, AND I QUOTE, "YOU'RE EARLY—WAIT HERE!" AT THIS POINT, SHE SLAMMED THE DOOR IN MY FACE AND MADE ME STAND OUTSIDE THE OFFICE—NO CUP OF COFFEE, NO CHAIR, NO NOTHING.

IRS OPENED THE DOOR WITHIN SECONDS OF OUR MEETING TIME, FOR WHICH I GIVE HIM CREDIT, BUT HE GREETED ME WITH THAT ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR SCOWL AND THOSE GOLD-RIMMED GLASSES THAT WE'VE SEEN THOUSANDS OF TIMES ON THE FEDERATION NETWORK. I TOOK ONE STEP INSIDE, AND IRS SHOUTED, "NOW TAKE THEM OFF!" ALTHOUGH I WAS COMPLETELY BAFFLED, I REACHED DOWN TO REMOVE MY SHOES. BUT HE QUICKLY BELLOWED, "NOT YOUR SHOES, YOUR GLASSES—YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SNOOP AROUND MY OFFICE." I TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM THAT I ABSOLUTELY HAD TO HAVE MY GLASSES, BUT HE WASN'T WILLING TO LISTEN. SO I OBLIGED. IRS THEN INSISTED ON SEARCHING THE CONTENTS OF MY BRIEFCASE, AGAIN TO MY BEWILDERMENT. "IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY THAT I DO THINGS, YOU CAN LEAVE RIGHT NOW," HE SNAPPED.

I TOLD IRS THAT I HAD TO USE THE BATHROOM, FOR WHICH HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO POINT ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. HE DID, THOUGH, PURPOSELY DIRECT ME INTO A WALL, FOR WHICH HE GOT A GOOD LAUGH AS I GRIMACED IN PAIN. BUT I GOT THE LAST LAUGH BECAUSE WHEN I SLIPPED INTO THE BATHROOM, I POPPED IN MY CONTACT LENSES THAT I HAD SECRETLY STORED IN MY SHIRT POCKET—AND HE NEVER NOTICED.

IRS WAS OH-SO-KIND (NOT!) TO GRANT ME 10 MINUTES, FOR WHICH HE HAD A STOPWATCH RUNNING. HIS OFFICE WAS RATHER LARGE, ABOUT THE SIZE OF A COMPANY PRESIDENT'S, BUT AS NEAT AS A 10-YEAR-OLD'S BEDROOM. THERE WAS PAPER EVERYWHERE—TAX FORMS, FOLDERS, RECEIPTS; YOU NAME IT, HE HAD IT.

"WHAT I HAVE HERE ARE IN-DEPTH FILES ON EVERY TAX CHEAT IN THE FEDERATION, AND THERE ARE A LOT, STARTING WITH LEX LUGER AND RANDY SAVAGE," HE SAID.

THE MOST PROMINENT FOLDER ON IRS' DESK WAS THAT OF RAZOR RAMON, WHICH, WITHOUT A DOUBT, WAS AS THICK AS THE NEW YORK CITY TELEPHONE BOOK. "YOU SEEM TO HAVE A LOAD OF INFORMATION ON RAZOR RAMON," I SAID, READING THE HIGHLIGHTED LETTERS. HE PICKED IT UP—WITH BOTH OF HIS HANDS, MIND YOU—AND STARTED SPEAKING!

"RAZOR RAMON IS VERY HIGH ON IRWIN R. SCHYSTER'S LIST OF TAX CHEATS, ESPECIALLY AFTER CALLING ME A THIEF FOR STEALING THE FOOL'S GOLD THAT HE WEARS AROUND HIS NECK," IRS SAID. (AT THIS POINT, HE BEGAN YELLING.) "WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AROUND MY OFFICE? WHEN YOU'RE IN HERE, YOU LOOK STRICTLY AT ME, OR I'LL SLAP YOU HARDER THAN THAT TAX CHEAT TATANKA."

MY 10 MINUTES WITH THE TAX MAN WERE QUICKLY COMING TO A CLOSE, SO, IN THE HOPE OF ENDING IN THE INTERVIEW ON A PLEASANT NOTE, I CHANGED SUBJECTS AND ASKED FOR HIS PREDICTIONS OF THE 1994 BASEBALL SEASON—AND BOY, WAS I SURPRISED WITH HIS RESPONSE.

"THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE TORONTO BLUE JAYS WILL BE DETHRONED AS WORLD CHAMPIONS," IRS SAID. "BUT MORE IMPORTANT NOWADAYS THAN BASEBALL IS THE FACT THAT IT'S TAX TIME—MY FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR, THE TIME I GET TO AUDIT ALL OF YOU TAX CHEATS, ESPECIALLY RAZOR RAMON. THIS IS BETTER THAN CHRISTMAS, BETTER THAN NEW YEAR'S EVE, BETTER THAN JULY FOURTH, BETTER THAN HALLOWEEN."

IRS' STOPWATCH STARTED CHIRPING, SO HE IMMEDIATELY STOPPED TALKING. "WE'RE DONE; NOW LEAVE," HE SAID. THEN HE THREW MY GLASSES ON THE FLOOR. "WANT A CUP OF COFFEE?" HE ASKED, MUCH TO MY SURPRISE, AS I WAS A STEP AWAY FROM THE DOOR. "IT'LL BE $3, AND DON'T EVEN THINK OF WRITING IT OFF. PLUS, YOU'D BETTER HAVE YOUR 1099 AND 1040 [FORMS] IN ORDER, AND DON'T EVEN THINK OF FILING FOR A LATE EXTENSION, OR I'LL DEFINITELY COME VISIT YOU, TOO." WF

**IRS' STOPWATCH STARTED CHIRPING, SO HE IMMEDIATELY STOPPED TALKING. "WE'RE DONE; NOW LEAVE."**

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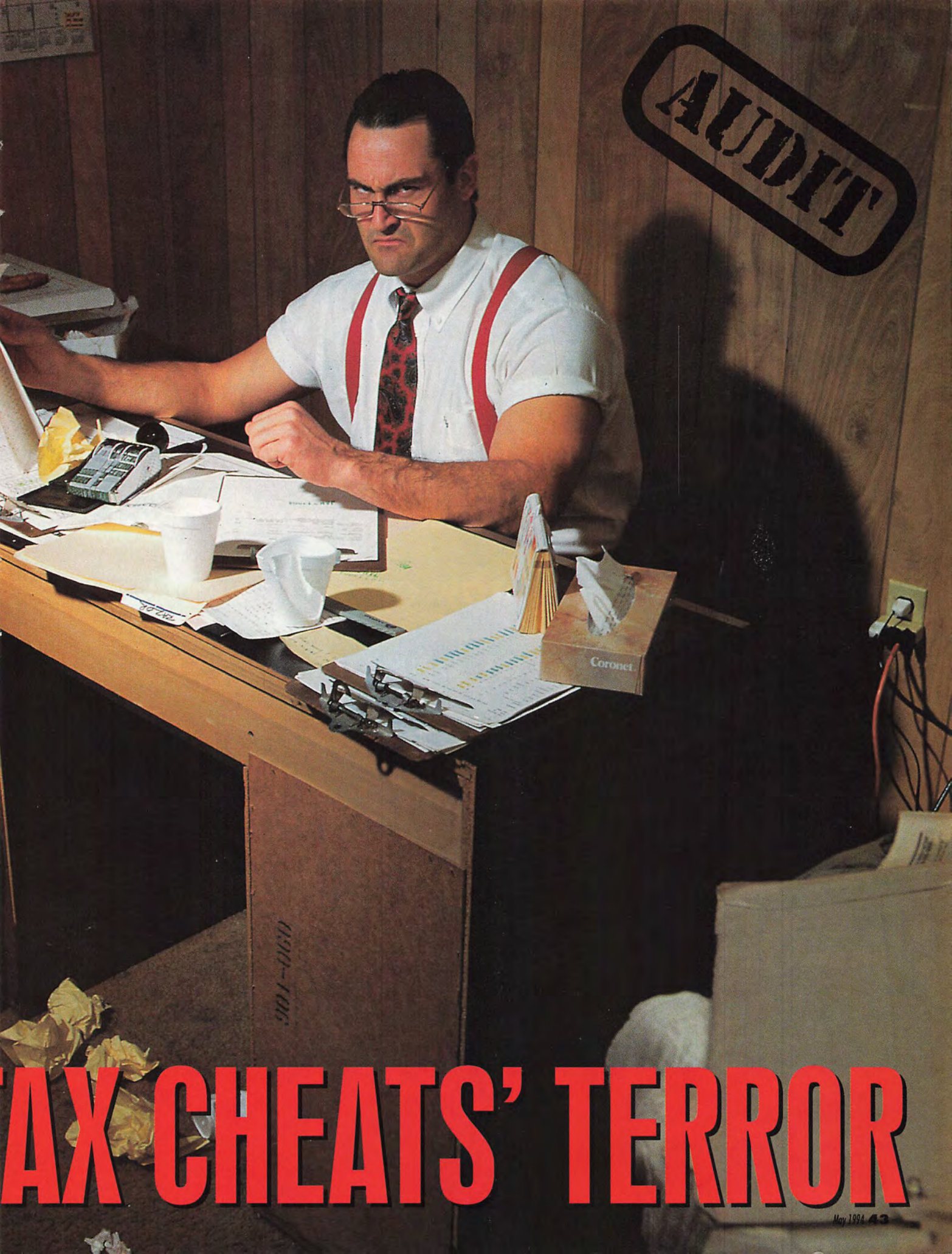



# TAX CHEATS' TERROR

# BAM BAM B

## IS THERE ANYONE TO

"YOU GOTTA LIVE LIFE IN THE ALLEY, WITH FIVE GOONS WITH CHAINS ALL AROUND YOU AND THE TASTE OF FEAR ON YOUR TONGUE. YOU GOTTA KNOW HOW GOOD IT FEELS TO PLOW THROUGH EVERY ONE OF 'EM AND LEAVE 'EM LYING IN A HEAP BEHIND YOU. AND YOU GOTTA HAVE THE HEART TO WALK BACK OUT ONTO THE STREET WITH YOUR KNUCKLES BUSTED, KICK THE SIDE OF A PARKED CAR, JUMP UP ON THE ROOF AND THEN SCREAM, 'ANYBODY WANT MORE?!'"

BY KEITH ELLI

# BIGELOW

## UGHER?

BACKGROUND PHOTO: KIT NOBLE

O T GREENBERG

"There are two types of wrestlers in the world," Bam Bam Bigelow grunts, skimming through a *World Wrestling Federation Program* and stopping at a photo of the 1-2-3 Kid. "There are guys like him." He snorts, then turns the page to a picture of Bret "Hit Man" Hart. "And him." He shakes his head in disgust. "Punks. Pretty boys. Goody-goodies. Put one of those pansies in a street fight and..."

Bigelow clenches his teeth and smashes his fist into his palm.

A reporter ventures to question, "What about the other type of wrestler?"

Bam Bam shakes his tattooed head and narrows his eyes menacingly. For a moment, it's unclear whether he's going to answer with words or some type of swift, senseless act of violence. Then he blurts, "You're looking at him."

Most World Wrestling Federation competitors have heard Bigelow's tales about his wild upbringing in the badlands of South Jersey. There are gory remembrances of midnight rumbles on the cool sands of the Atlantic Ocean, Pier Six brawls with gangs from other towns and visits to the emergency room to get stitched up and fight once again.

"That's why these wimps get on my nerves," Bigelow sneers. "I have to listen to all this garbage about what this jerk did on the mat in high school or college. Well, you can't learn what it's like in the fires of the World Wrestling

Federation by flitting around on some amateur mat. You gotta live life in the alley, with five goons with chains all around you and the taste of fear on your tongue. You gotta know how good it feels to plow through every one of 'em and leave 'em lying in a heap behind you. And you gotta have the heart to walk back out onto the street with your knuckles busted, kick the side of a parked car, jump up on the roof and then scream, 'Anybody want more?!'"

Bigelow's main squeeze Luna Vachon walks into the room, all leather, chains and feral energy. The tattooed mammoth stands, takes a place beside her and adds one final note to his monologue.

"Hey, I know a lot of guys talk a good game. But Bam Bam Bigelow's lived it. And go ahead and ask anybody who has had his face ripped off in the ring by me—nobody in the World Wrestling Federation does it like I do."

His bluster notwithstanding, Bigelow is talking anything but trash. Both his allies and foes agree that he's one of the most ruthless men to ever step through the ropes. Over and over again, you hear the colossus referred to as "pound for pound, the toughest guy around here" and "the one I'd least like to meet in a street fight."

Additionally, former associates of Bigelow have confirmed that all his stories of teenage headknocking are true. "He's everything he says he is," says a friend from Asbury Park, "and a little bit more."

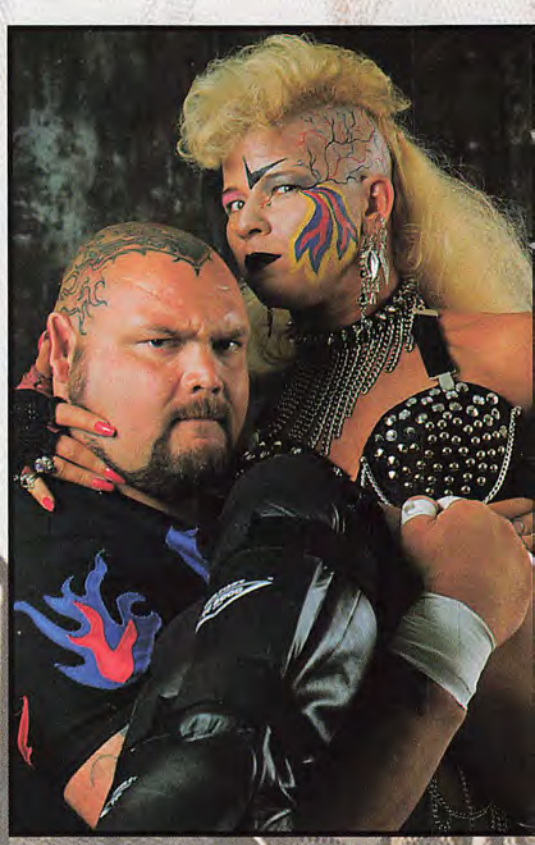
In fact, by all accounts, Bam Bam has gotten worse since he left the boardwalks of the Jersey

**"PUNKS. PRETTY BOYS. GOODY-GOODIES. PUT ONE OF THOSE PANSIES IN A STREET FIGHT AND..."**

Shore for the mean mats of the World Wrestling Federation. "Let me put it to you this way," a one-time buddy of the Federation's premier hoodlum begins. "Back in New Jersey, Bigelow was the roughest maniac any of us had ever seen. He was in a league of his own. In the World Wrestling Federation, brutality is the order of the day. I mean, look who Bigelow's associating with—Yokozuna, Crush, Adam Bomb. And he's always out to prove he's nastier than anyone else. With that type of pressure, he's done things he wouldn't have dreamed of before."

Still, as other World Wrestling Federation marauders have painfully learned, there's always someone waiting around the corner to give you a reality check. While Bigelow raves about the shortcomings of pure athletes like Bret Hart and the 1-2-3 Kid, his most difficult moments have come at the hands of characters who, like him, are renowned for being unconventional. Not long ago, he suffered a series of embarrassments orchestrated by Doink the Clown and his pint-sized accomplice Dink. Bigelow has also had to deal with Bastion Booger, who is seemingly infatuated with Luna.

Booger and Bigelow, moreover, have numerous things in common. Both turn heads wherever they go—Bigelow because of his bulk, illustrated skull and precarious swagger; the 400-pound Booger because of his humped back, shaved head and vile eating habits. In the ring, each man uses his size to maximum advantage, overpowering smaller opponents with undiluted might and hurling his mass into each devastating wallop.



But the one area where Booger may best Bigelow is ring psychology. This is not because of anything Booger planned. Rather, it's a result of something Booger did—namely, making a go for Luna on *Monday Night Raw*.

Supporters of Booger hope he capitalizes on Bam Bam's clouded mind and emotions if the two tangle once again. (They did battle one another to a double count-out on *Raw* a few weeks after Booger attempted to hug and kiss Luna.) If a rematch takes place, Bigelow insists he will handle this battle as he always has—channeling all those years of back-street melees into his latest opponent, solidifying his reputation as the World Wrestling Federation's most threatening hazard. WF

BACKGROUND PHOTO: KIT NOBLE

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# TAKING HIS LUMPS

BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

THE 1-2-3 KID IS ONE OF THE MOST FEARLESS AND DARING YOUNG ATHLETES IN FEDERATION HISTORY. IN JANUARY, HE BADLY INJURED HIS KNEE IN A MATCH AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN; HE WAS IN A KNEE BRACE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

# 1-2-3 KID LEARNS THAT PAIN COMES WITH GLORY

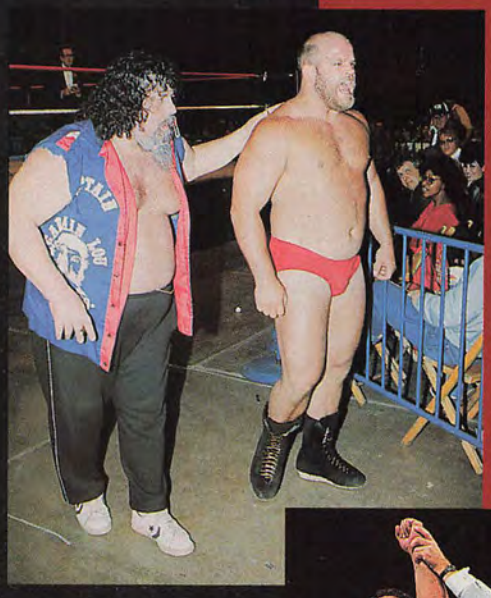
His rise seemed meteoric. Within weeks after entering the World Wrestling Federation, the 1-2-3 Kid scored a stunning upset over superstar Razor Ramon on *Monday Night Raw*. The victory was so impressive that Ramon courted the youngster as a tag team partner. Several months later, the 1-2-3 Kid had a new teammate, former Intercontinental kingpin and fellow high-flier Marty Jannetty. During a nationally televised episode of *Raw*, the two went up against the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team titlists, the Quebecers. After a hard-fought battle, the 1-2-3 Kid was co-holder of the championship.

Not bad achievements for a young man who was a virtual unknown a year ago.

"I couldn't believe it," the 1-2-3 Kid remembers. "All the hard work, the training, the lumps I took against much bigger opponents—it all was worth it that night. It wasn't too long ago when I'd be thrilled if a World Wrestling Federation star stopped and gave me an autograph. And here I was, with the Tag Team Championship Belt strapped around my waist."

But some are concerned that winning the Tag Team Title may have been the peak of the 1-2-3 Kid's career. A week after the triumph, the Quebecers won back the belts at Madison Square

# ONE-SHOT WONDERS



All throughout World Wrestling Federation history, there have been numerous competitors who came in with great fanfare—only to have short-lived stays in the spotlight. Years ago, manager Classy Freddy Blassie introduced an athlete known as the Polish Prince and labeled him a future champion. But the Prince felt less than regal after feeling the heat of World Wrestling Federation combat and vanished as quickly as he appeared. Later, Captain Lou Albano unveiled the late Buzz Sawyer as a protégé. Sawyer already had a reputation as an unpredictable brawler in the southern United States, but few fans today even remember his brief appearance in the World Wrestling Federation. Then in 1991 manager Harvey Wippleman entered the Federation with his childhood friend, Big Bully Busick. Busick had a reputation for provoking fights and for winning them. Wippleman had great hopes for Busick, but within months the name of Big Bully Busick was all but forgotten in the Federation.

**TOP: CAPT. LOU ALBANO WITH BUZZ SAWYER; BOTTOM: BUSICK AND HARVEY WIPPLEMAN.**

**THE KID IS A FORMER CO-HOLDER OF THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM TITLE WITH PARTNER MARTY JANNETTY. THE KID IS NOW SETTING HIS SIGHTS ON ATTAINING BOTH THE INTERCONTINENTAL AND FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIP BELTS.**

Garden. Later that very same evening, the 1-2-3 Kid was thrown from the ring during the New York *Royal Rumble*—which was a special variation of the pay-per-view event that was held only for the fans in Gotham—landing wrong on the arena floor and sustaining knee damage.

Like young men everywhere, the 1-2-3 Kid realized the fact that he wasn't infallible.

"Before, when I'd sit in the dressing room and listen to some of the other guys talk about their injuries, I'd try to put it out of my mind," he admits. "I was young. I was daring. I was willing to do things these guys would never try. Well, I'm still all that—but I've also learned the hard way that pain is part of this game."

Now some ring observers are wondering if the 1-2-3 Kid will go the way of other one-shot wonders.

"In a word—no," the Kid responds. "I've been a wrestling fan my whole life, and I've watched a lot of guys come and go. But none of the wrestlers you mentioned ever won the gold in the World Wrestling Federation. I have. I may have only been a tag team champion for a week, but once you get that taste in your mouth, it stays there."

However, even the Kid's loyal supporters question whether he will ever be the competitor that he was before the injury.

*While he was convalescing from his injury, the Kid had an altercation with IRS on Monday Night Raw, in which the Kid made off with IRS' briefcase.*

"When the Kid didn't know what it felt like to have a busted-up knee, he flew around the arena as if there was no gravity in the building," says a friend of the young sensation who requested anonymity. "Now he knows the consequences of that type of behavior. Believe me, I'm sure that he thought about it a lot in the hospital room. And I can't imagine that he won't be a little intimidated the next time he feels like getting bold in the ring."

**NOT EVEN A LEG BRACE STOPS THE 1-2-3 KID. 1 2 3 GO!**

While this opinion has validity when expressed about a normal wrestler, one has to consider the extraordinary courage of the Kid. Still on crutches, he dared to defy the dangerous IRS. He confiscated the detestable accountant's briefcase during a match, rifled through its contents, found some gold belonging to Razor Ramon and returned it to the Bad Guy.

Is this the conduct of a person "intimidated" by the threat of further injury? Not really. In fact, some might argue that the Kid has something of a death wish. Between his aerial antics and his penchant for annoying treacherous rivals, it is natural to wonder if the daredevil will soon be injured again.

"I've asked myself the same question," the Kid says. "And I'm going to let the cards fall where they may. I've been given the skills I have for a reason, and I intend to use them. Sure, I don't want to get hurt. But if I do, I'll come back again and again and again and again."

With that attitude, the only foreseeable problem is that he might have to change his name, borrowing a page from President Bill Clinton's election run. Instead of being the 1-2-3 Kid, the dauntless titan could emerge as the Comeback Kid. WF

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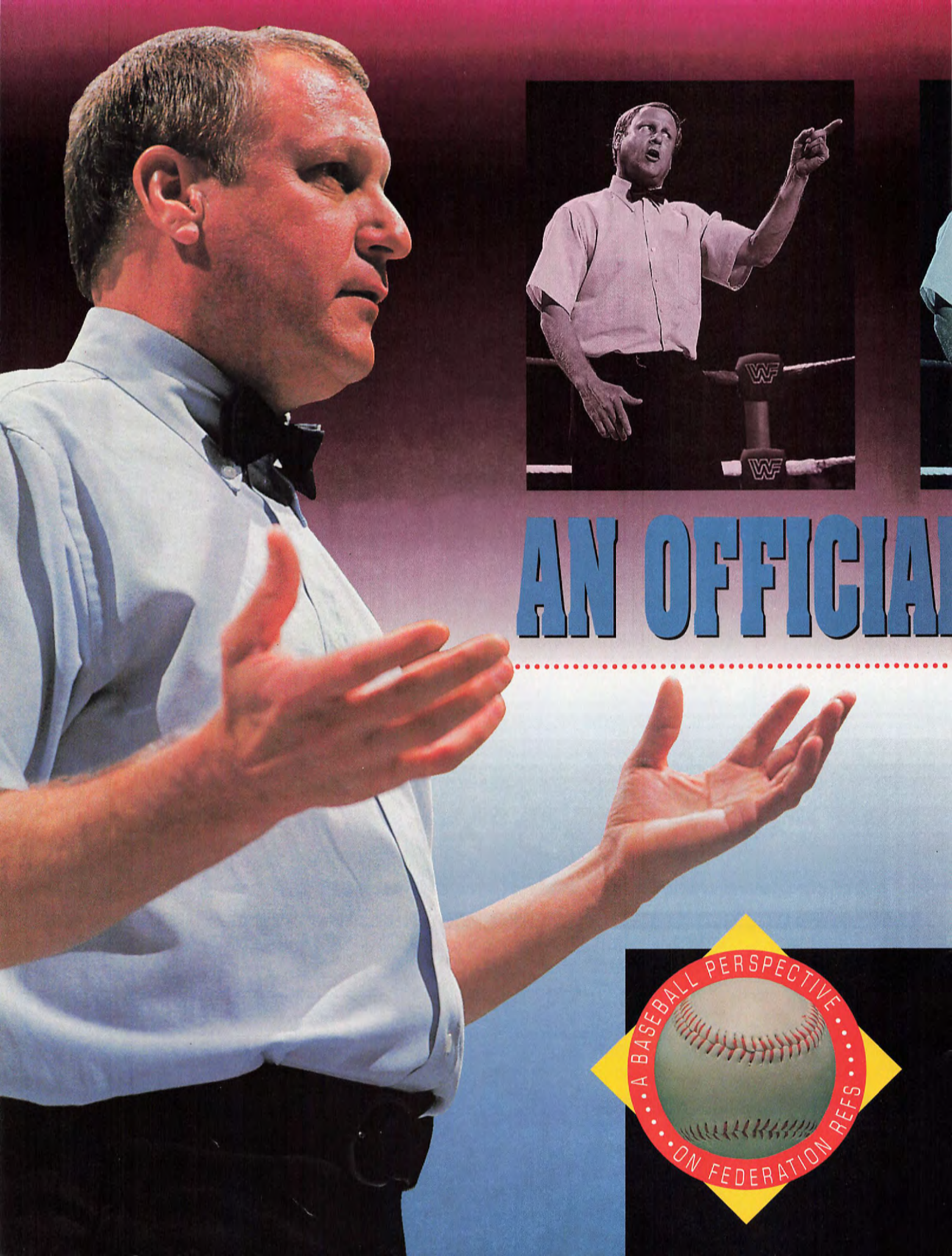
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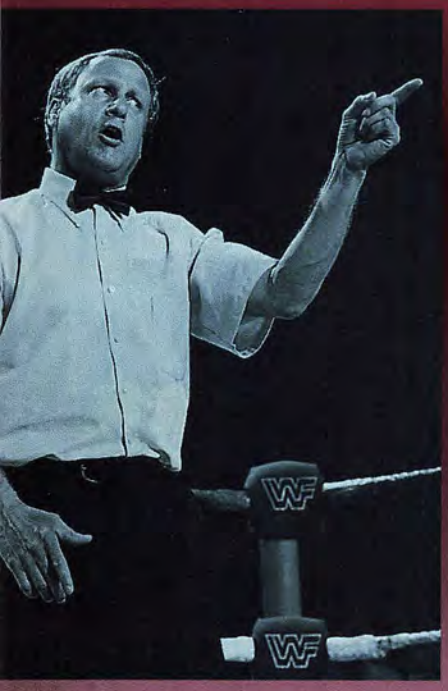
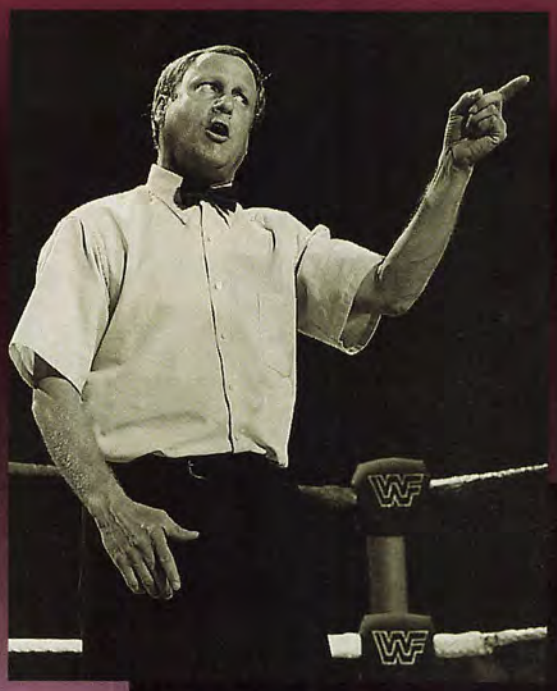




BY
ROSS FORMAN

# LOOKS AT OFFICIATING

*Editor's Note: World Wrestling Federation Magazine reporter Ross Forman is a 1991 graduate of the Joe Brinkman-Bruce Froemming Umpire School and the 1991 Major League Baseball Umpire Development Program. He umpired the '91 season in the Bowling Green, Ohio-based Great Lakes League. Many of the players he saw are now in the minor leagues.*

I have stood at a baseball diamond behind home plate with a pitcher throwing a 90-MPH fastball from a mere 60 feet 6 inches away. That can be scary, to say the least.

I have not been in the World Wrestling Federation ring with, say, Crush and Macho Man Randy Savage doing battle in one of their brawls, although, that too has to be scary.

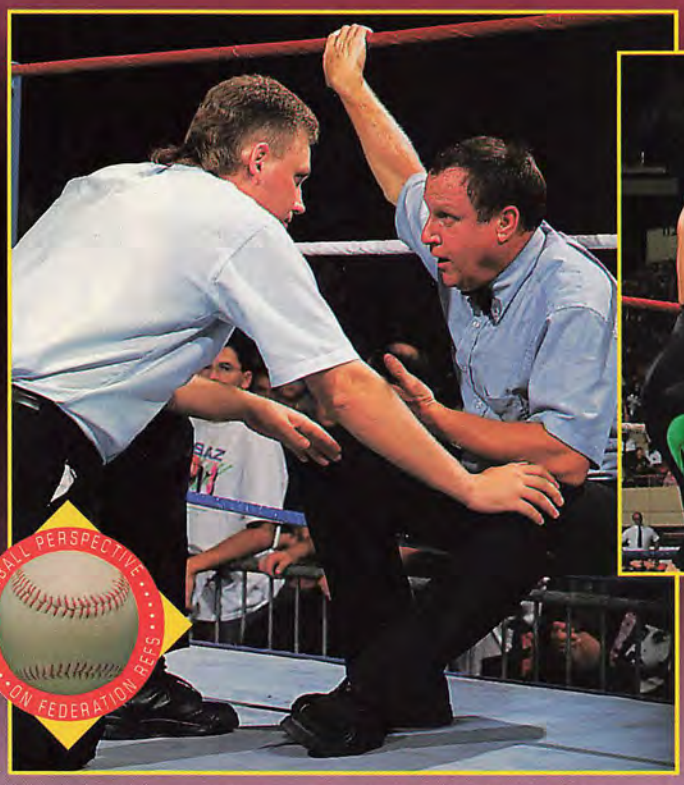
Officiating—be it baseball, for which I am professionally trained, high school hockey which I also work, or in the World Wrestling Federation—is one tough job, no doubt about it. And no average person off the streets can handle this chore. It takes years of practice, just as it does for the competitors. Bret "Hit Man" Hart didn't just wake one day and say, "Hey, I'm going to be the World Wrestling Federation Champion." And, even after a dozen years of practice, no official will ever be more than 50 percent right. It's a rough job—one that certainly would suit Rodney Dangerfield. Regardless of the sport and/or level, officials must be professional, honest, dedicated, fair and unbiased. And that's just for starters.

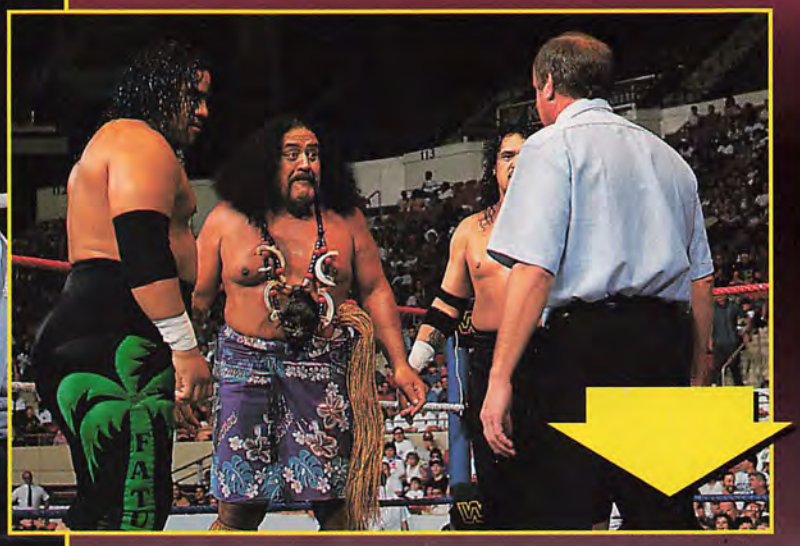
"Officiating is a job you have to love," said Earl Hebner, the World Wrestling Federation's veteran mat mediator.

Hebner's 14 years of experience goes back to the days when Bob Backlund was the Federation Champion and Afa was a mauler, not a manager. Hebner has seen it all—the good (times when refs have reversed a call when they realized a wrestler has pulled the tights to help secure a victory), the bad (when a ref misses, say, Shawn Michaels' feet on the rope during a pin situation) and the ugly (the stalemate following the 1994 *Royal Rumble* between Lex Luger and the Hit Man).

"Our goal is perfection and justice," Hebner said.

Federation officials receive extensive training. Although President Jack Tunney would not confirm or deny it, I have learned that, yes, there is in fact a World Wrestling Federation Referee School. My sources say that it is held annually near





A BASEBALL PERSPECTIVE ON FEDERATION REFS

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, ironically where President Tunney has his office.

I approached Hebner to discuss the school, particularly as to what intricacies are taught. Yet he, too, was close-mouthed on the subject. He did, though, say that his reference manual/rulebook is so thick that it makes the New York City phone book look like a Dick and Jane novel. Hebner also said that the book—which he carries in a locked briefcase to every arena, whether or not he is even refereeing that evening—is a hot commodity. Even some of the wrestlers, believe it or not, want a copy. The Million Dollar Man Ted DiBiase, for instance, once offered Hebner a 5-inch stack of $100 bills in exchange for the book.

Hebner, needless to say, refused. After all, the man in that ever-so-familiar blue shirt has morals. He can't be bought, no matter how much money is on the line.

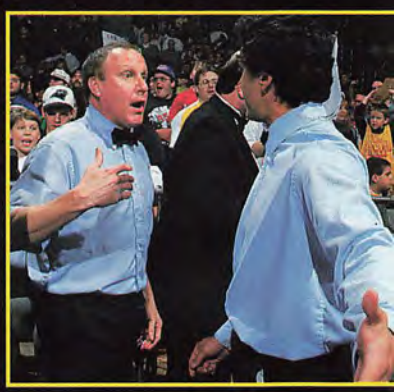
"Every wrestler looks for an edge, so we have to make sure that things stay on an even keel and uniform. But it's not always that easy," Hebner said.

Overall, I think the Federation officials do a good job. All things considered, I would give them an A-plus. They have one tough job, yet, for the most part, they do it very well. Think about it. Better yet, picture this scenario: In one corner, you've got Samu and Fatu, the Head Shrinkers, and, of course, Afa is never too far behind. In the other corner, you've got Mo, Oscar and Mabel, the rapping trio Men on a Mission (M.O.M.). Combined, there is well over 1,000 pounds of humanity—and 150-pound Hebner has to control them all. It's a near-impossible task, and that's not even taking into account the fact that Samu and Fatu have a limited English vocabulary that strictly includes yes, no and food.

Thus, I propose that all tag team matches have two officials —one inside the ring, one outside the ring. Jack Tunney, whose decision-making process has been compared to that of molasses, simply said, "I have been considering two referees for tag team matches for some time now. It certainly is under consideration, but it's not something where we can rush a judgment."

Another area that Tunney needs to address is intimidation, not to mention contact, which includes bumping, pushing and punching referees. The refereess need more authority in these areas —and then they need to take advantage of their position, if need be. And that includes hefty fines.

I also think that it is important that Tunney consider instant replay officials. Sure, the process wasn't a hit in the NFL, but I feel it is something he must evaluate, even if it is on a selected-match basis. Think back to *Monday Night Raw* when the Steiner Brothers lost their Tag Team Belts to the Quebecers in a match wrestled according to Province of Quebec rules. Well, don't you think a replay official would have seen that when Rick hit Pierre, he was only retaliating? A replay official could have caught this and not cost the University of Michigan alums their prized



Tag Team Belts.

I think that it's about time Tunney fully evaluates and updates the World Wrestling Federation referee program, for the betterment of all involved—wrestlers, referees and fans. The program is good, but it could be better. And Tunney needs to address this issue immediately. How about it, Mr. President? WF

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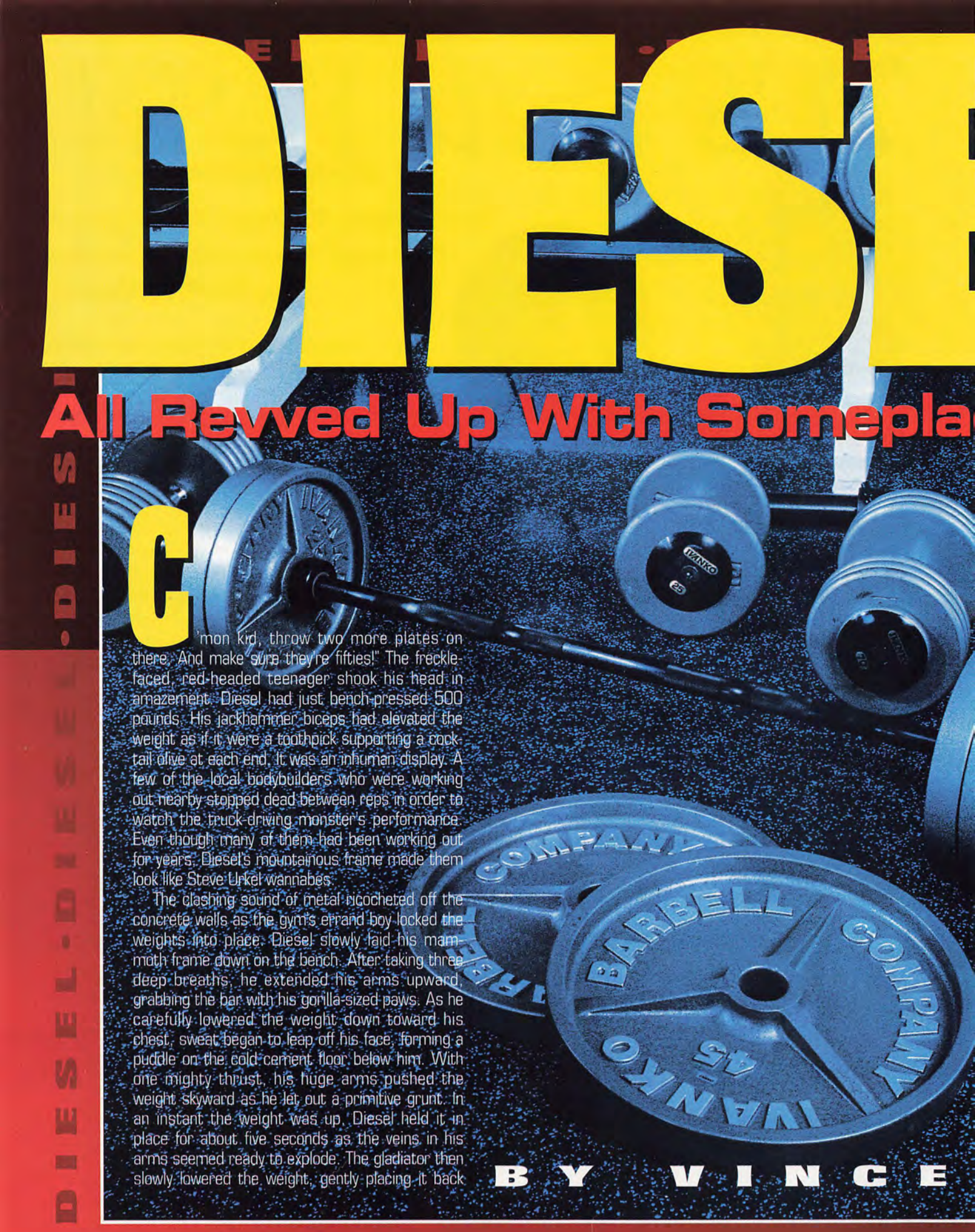
# DIESE

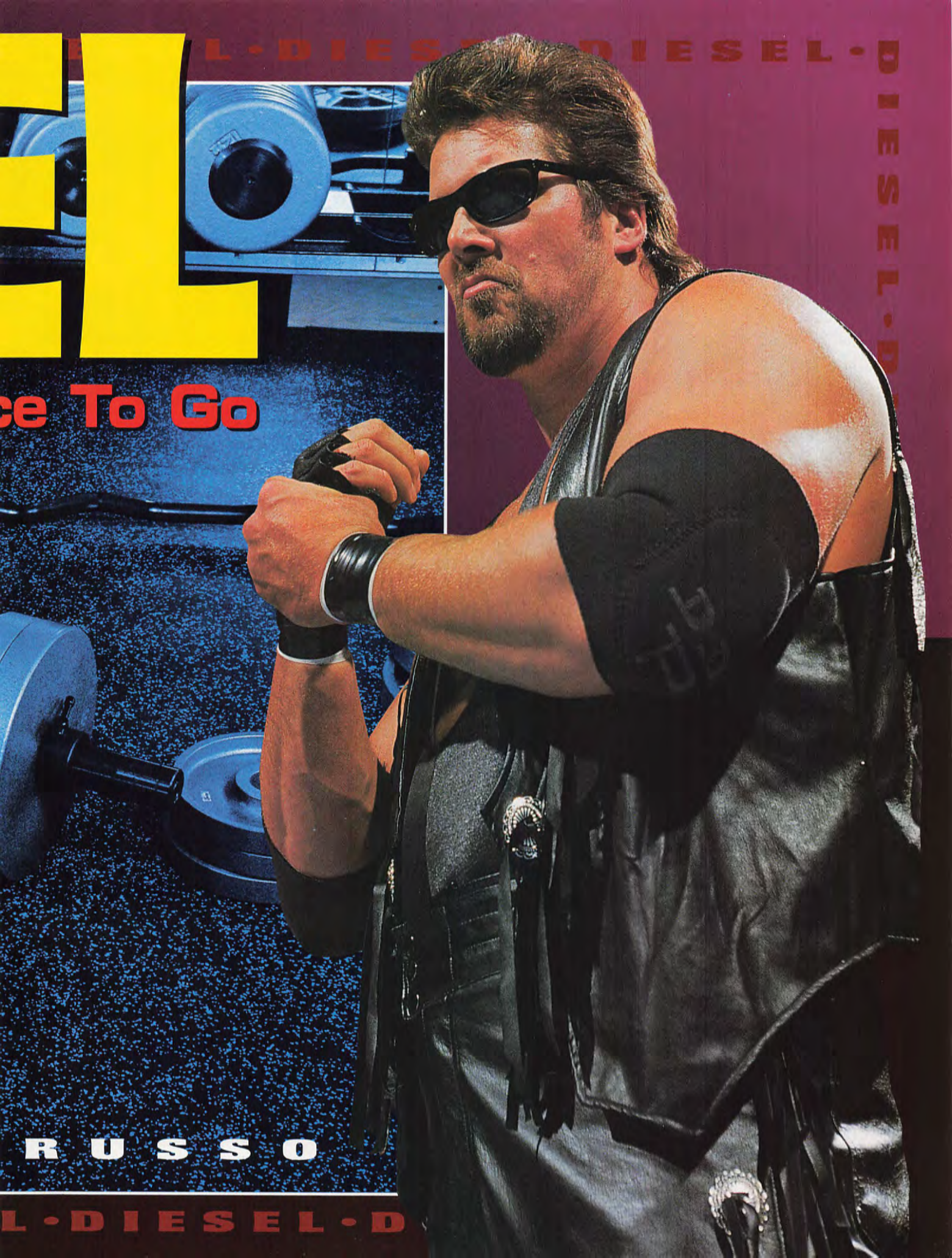
## All Revved Up With Somepla




'mon kid, throw two more plates on there. And make sure they're fifties!" The freckle-faced, red-headed teenager shook his head in amazement. Diesel had just bench-pressed 500 pounds. His jackhammer biceps had elevated the weight as if it were a toothpick supporting a cocktail olive at each end. It was an inhuman display. A few of the local bodybuilders who were working out nearby stopped dead between reps in order to watch the truck-driving monster's performance. Even though many of them had been working out for years, Diesel's mountainous frame made them look like Steve Urkel wannabes.

The clashing sound of metal ricocheted off the concrete walls as the gym's errand boy locked the weights into place. Diesel slowly laid his mammoth frame down on the bench. After taking three deep breaths, he extended his arms upward, grabbing the bar with his gorilla-sized paws. As he carefully lowered the weight down toward his chest, sweat began to leap off his face, forming a puddle on the cold cement floor below him. With one mighty thrust, his huge arms pushed the weight skyward as he let out a primitive grunt. In an instant the weight was up. Diesel held it in place for about five seconds as the veins in his arms seemed ready to explode. The gladiator then slowly lowered the weight, gently placing it back

BY VINCE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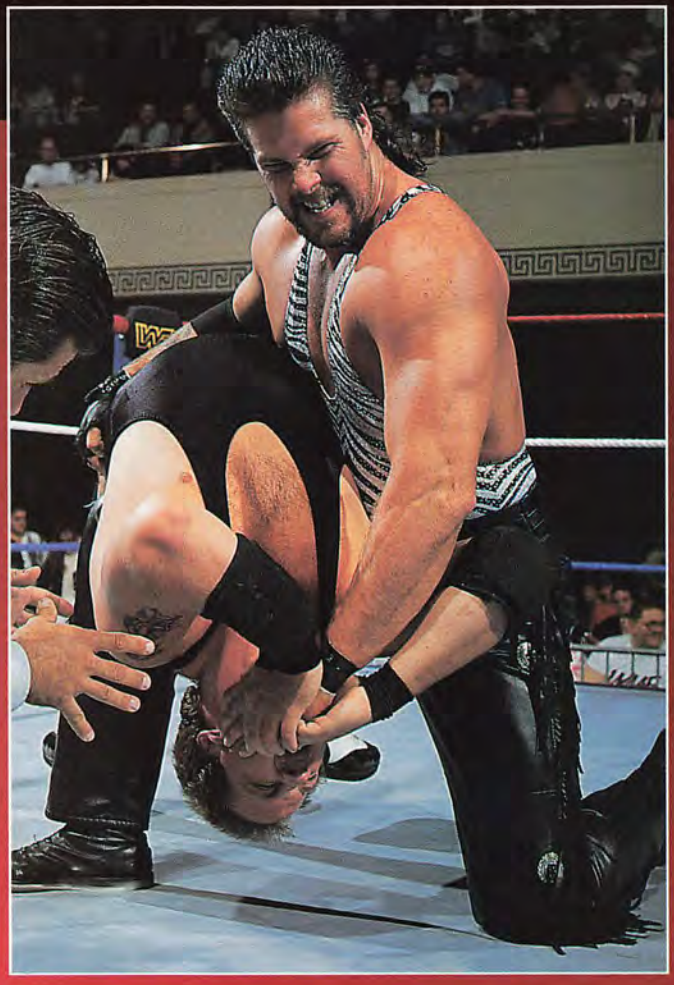
into the bench's holding arms. As he toweled the sweat from his brow, Diesel looked at the gaping gym gofer and said, "A piece of cake, kid, a piece of cake."

Like the exhibition in the gym, there haven't been many problems for Diesel since his June arrival in the World Wrestling Federation. Prior to being hired as Shawn Michael's personal bodyguard, Diesel had the reputation on the street as being the "baddest" 18-wheel driver alive. He loved opening up the highways of America by putting the pedal to the metal and exceeding speeds of over 100 mph. To him, this was a form of relaxation.

When Diesel wasn't on the road, he spent most of his time looking for trouble. A close friend of his told us that one of Diesel's favorite pastimes was going to the local bar and harassing motorcycle gangs. He would stand just outside and kick over their Harleys, one by one, until someone came out and started something with him.

Upon his entrance into the World Wrestling Federation, Diesel had immediate impact. On his first day on the job, he played an instrumental role in helping Michaels regain the Intercontinental Belt from Marty Jannetty. Diesel shadowed the Boy Toy, never leaving his side.

"When you come into this world, you've got only one thing, and that's your word," snarled Diesel, as he finished his final tuneup before WrestleMania X. "When Shawn brought me in as his bodyguard, I gave him my word that I would be there for him. I stick to my word. That's the kind of man that I am."



Just as he was getting comfortable in his new role, a dramatic turn of events took place in the bodyguard's life. World Wrestling Federation President Jack Tunney suspended Diesel's boss, Shawn Michaels. This untimely ruling left Diesel with no other choice but to make the switch from bodyguard to wrestler. "There were a lot of differences between bodyguarding and wrestling," stated Diesel. "A bodyguard is there to make sure that nobody interferes with the person he is working for. Wrestling is one-on-one. All your focus is on your opponent, not the person you are trying to protect."

Diesel's raw power and strength made him an immovable force in the ring. He overcame every opponent that Jack Tunney threw his way. By the time Michaels' suspension was lifted, Diesel had put together quite an impressive unbeaten streak.

As fate would have it, the two friends became opponents when they both signed to participate in the Royal Rumble. Based on the draw, Diesel entered the squared circle before Michaels. In one of the most impressive showings in the history of the Royal Rumble, Diesel threw anything that moved out of the ring. However, by the time the Boy Toy entered the squared circle, Diesel's tank had run dry. With an army of athletes trying to dispose of Diesel over the top rope, Michaels sprang off the far rope and clearly pushed his bodyguard out. When he was confronted with this controversy, Diesel said, "That's a bunch of !@*#$%•!+&*. I talked to Shawn about it, and he said that he was merely trying to grab my boot and pull me back in."

Diesel's loyalty toward Michael's had to be questioned. When asked what the Boy Toy had done for him lately, Diesel snapped, "You've got to be kidding me. He got me here. My success as a wrestler has a lot to do with him. He's taken me aside and given me his 10-plus years of expertise. He's taught me how to win matches, how to be successful in the World Wrestling Federation. I owe Shawn Michaels everything! Now let's change the subject.

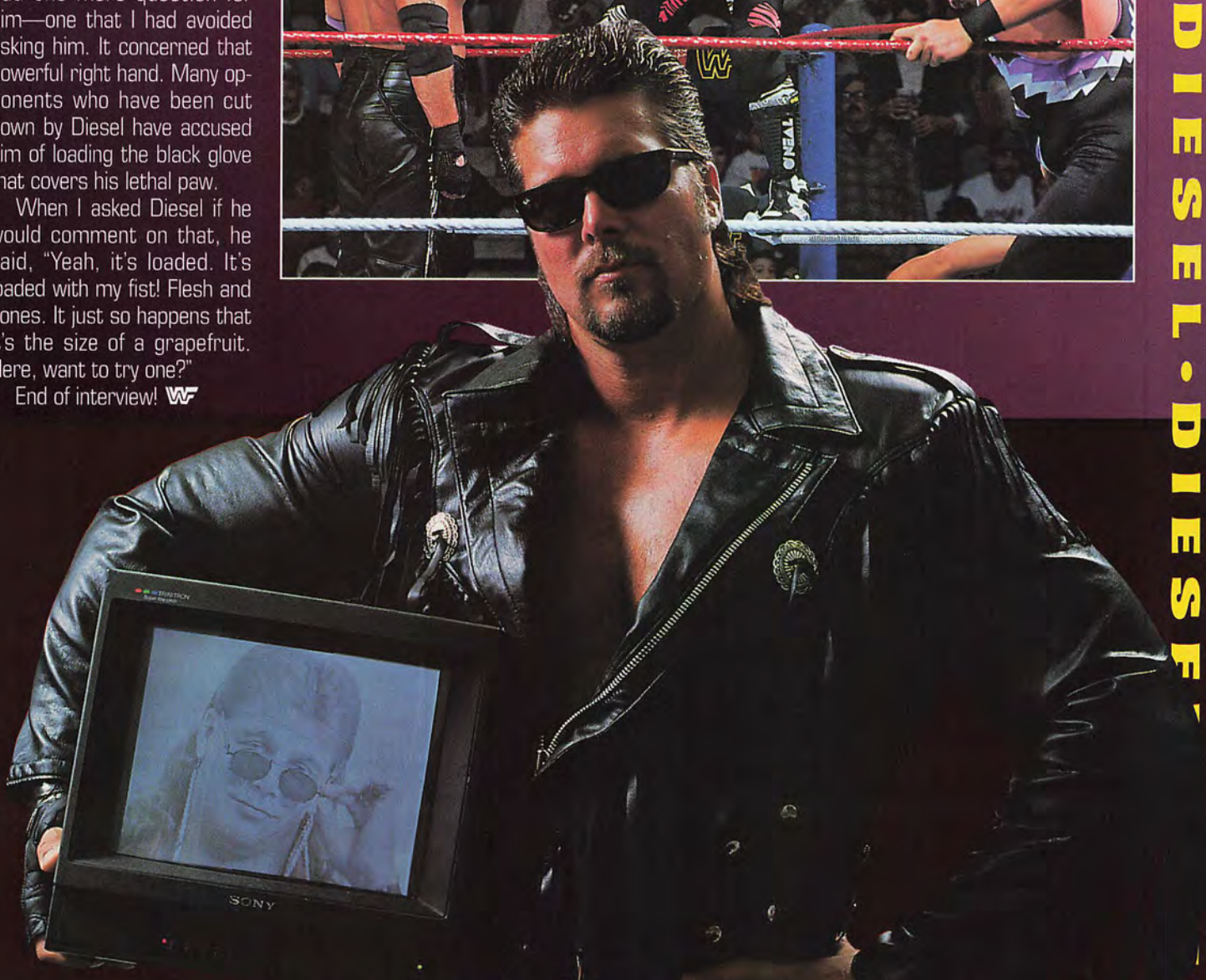
"Let's talk about my psychology in the ring," Diesel

demanded. "It's plain and simple. A man isn't able to put you in a hold if he's unconscious. The first punch in a street fight is usually the decisive one. The fatal first blow. What I try to do is get off early—and often. So far it's been successful for me, and you can't argue with success."

As Diesel packed his gym bag and got ready to leave, I had one more question for him—one that I had avoided asking him. It concerned that powerful right hand. Many opponents who have been cut down by Diesel have accused him of loading the black glove that covers his lethal paw.

When I asked Diesel if he would comment on that, he said, "Yeah, it's loaded. It's loaded with my fist! Flesh and bones. It just so happens that it's the size of a grapefruit. Here, want to try one?"

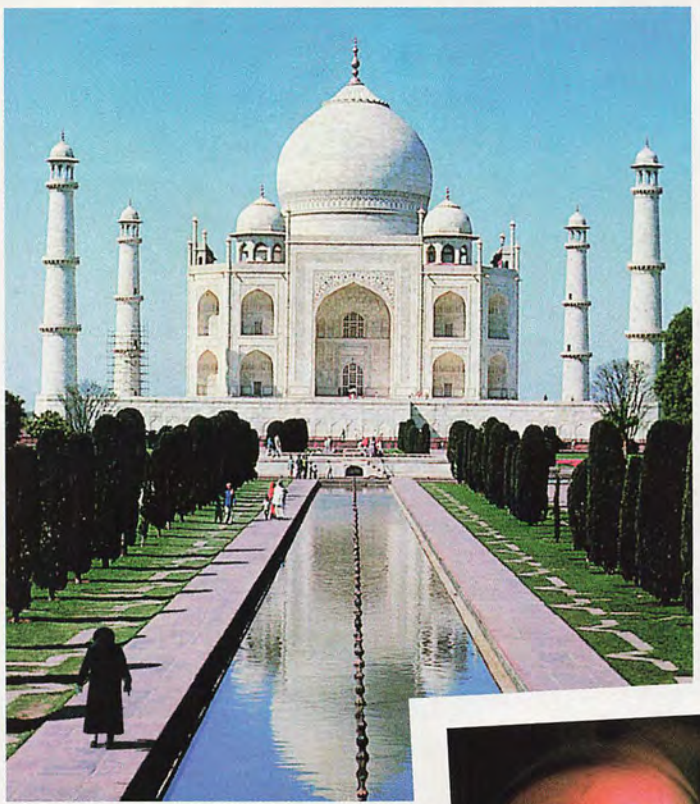
End of interview!




**"He got me here. My success as a wrestler has a lot to do with him. I owe Shawn Michaels everything!"**

# private eye

# The Un



Since he lost the Casket Match to Yokozuna at the *Royal Rumble* last January, the Undertaker has not been seen in the Federation. However, he—or a likeness of him—has been seen by millions of people around the world.

For instance, a week after the Casket Match, this magazine received letters from people near Huntsville, Alabama, who claimed they saw a huge man wearing a full-length black overcoat and a wide-brimmed hat walk into a convenience store. Other reports alleged that this same man, who many believe is the Undertaker himself, has been spotted near car dealerships.

This magazine was skeptical at first. After all, everybody witnessed the Undertaker receive the beating of his life at the *Rumble*.

***The Undertaker, or someone who looks like him, has been photographed at locations all over the world. Above: By the Taj Mahal in India; Right: At a villa near Madrid; Opposite page: Walking along the sparkling shore at Gulfport, Mississippi.***

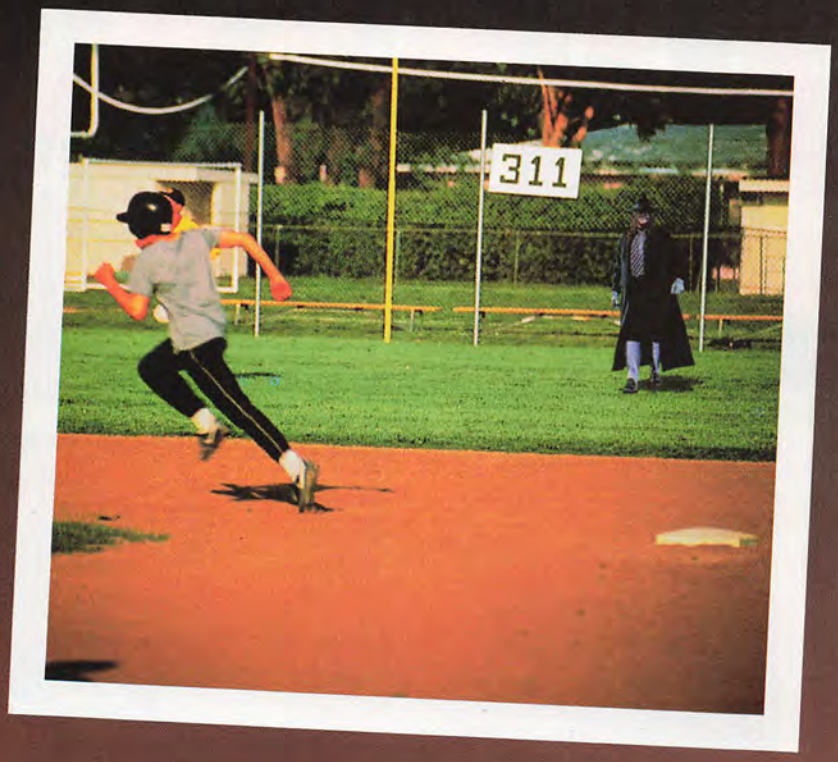
# XTRA

# dertaker Sighted!

Everybody witnessed Yokozuna stuff the Grim Reaper in the double-wide, double-deep casket. We needed more proof than letters and unconfirmed reports. Well, we have gotten more. Amateur and professional photographers the world over have sent us pictures of this mysterious man aimlessly drifting between the plane of life and that of the netherworld.

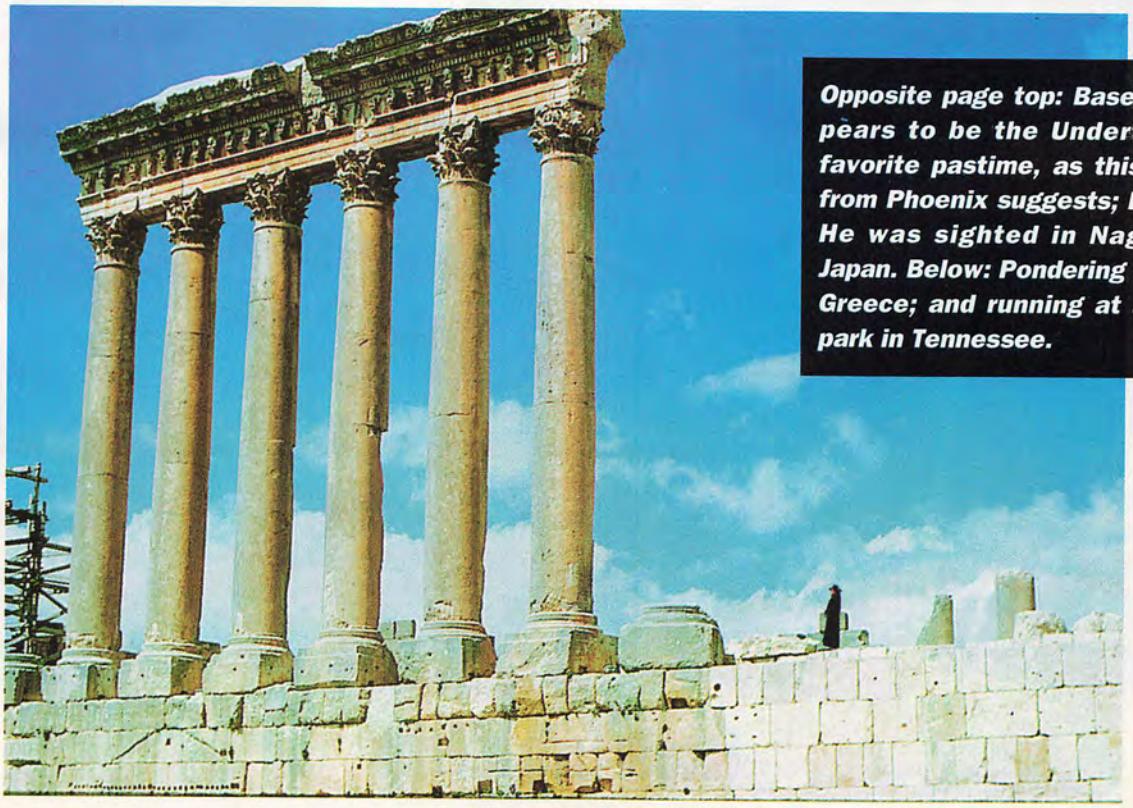
One woman from Gulfport, Mississippi, sent us a photo of the Undertaker—or again, someone who looks like him—walking in the Mississippi sun. Another from India had a shot of the Reaper visiting the Taj Mahal. Still another, from an unidentified lensperson in Spain, took a photograph of an Undertaker walking through a cafe in a villa near Madrid. There's more. Undertaker sightings have been photographed in such locations as Japan, where a Grim Reaper was spotted at a business convention in Nagasaki. A sports photographer from Phoenix, Arizona, captured an Undertaker shot at a sports complex weeks before the baseball season opened. He has also been spotted in Greece and, more recently, at a state park east of Knoxville, Tennessee.

# private eye



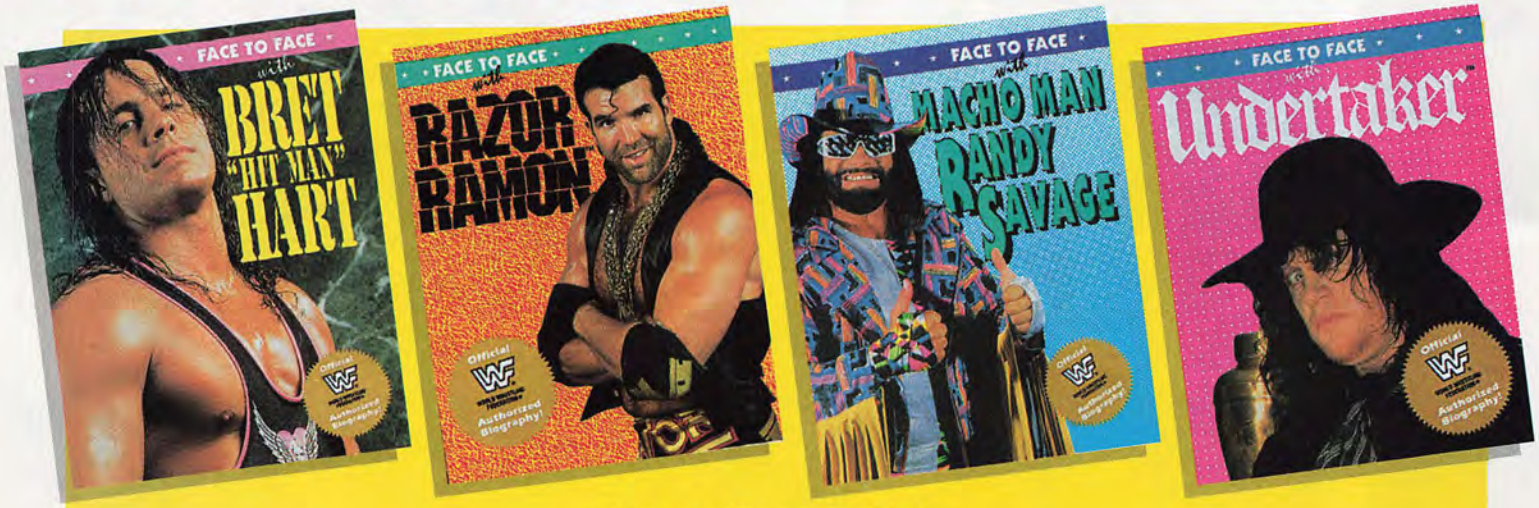

The Undertaker, or someone remarkably similar, is literally popping up everywhere. This man may even turn up in your town. Our best advice is to keep your eyes sharp, sensitize your reflexes, keep mental and, if at all possible, photographic notes. Then send us your findings.

We, just like millions everywhere, are also searching for the Undertaker. We have even heard rumors the TV program *Unsolved Mysteries* will send an investigative team to search for the Undertaker. With everyone's help, we will find this popular superstar and bring him back to where he belongs: in the Federation. WF



*Opposite page top: Baseball appears to be the Undertaker's favorite pastime, as this photo from Phoenix suggests; Bottom: He was sighted in Nagasaki, Japan. Below: Pondering ruins in Greece; and running at a state park in Tennessee.*

# World Wrestling Federation Low




## Face to Face in Print

*Lowdown's* good friends at Topdog Publishing—which is an official licensee of the Federation—have just released five special profile books on your favorite Federation superstars. Packed with colorful action shots and career highlights, this ongoing series is entitled *Face to Face* and features such Federation standouts as Razor Ramon, the Macho Man, Bret Hart, the Undertaker and the Steiner Brothers. Written by the executive editor of this publication Edward Ricciuti, these books offer fans of all ages the real inside scoop on the titans that do battle in the ring. The *Face to Face* series is currently available through Topdog (see ad this issue or call 1•800•831•9183 for more information).

## NATPE Hits Miami

The World Wrestling Federation made its presence known at the National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) Conference in Miami, Florida, this past January. Some of the Federation's hottest superstars, such as Randy Savage, Lex Luger and Miami resident Razor Ramon, were on hand to speak with television programmers and advertisers from around the world.

Thousands stopped by the Federation booth to marvel at the stars and talk about the high-profile status of Federation excitement and what it means to syndicated and cable television—and subsequent advertising revenue.

"This was the busiest NATPE we [the World Wrestling Federation] have ever attended," a source from Federation headquarters told *Lowdown*.

*Razor Ramon and Macho Man met with television executives at the NATPE Conference in January.*

# down

By Lou Gianfriddo

*The zany Bushwhackers shook up the set on a segment of* Family Matters.

## Bushwhackers Go Big Time

The Bushwhackers, Luke and Butch, hit the big time in mid-February when they appeared on the network sitcom *Family Matters.*

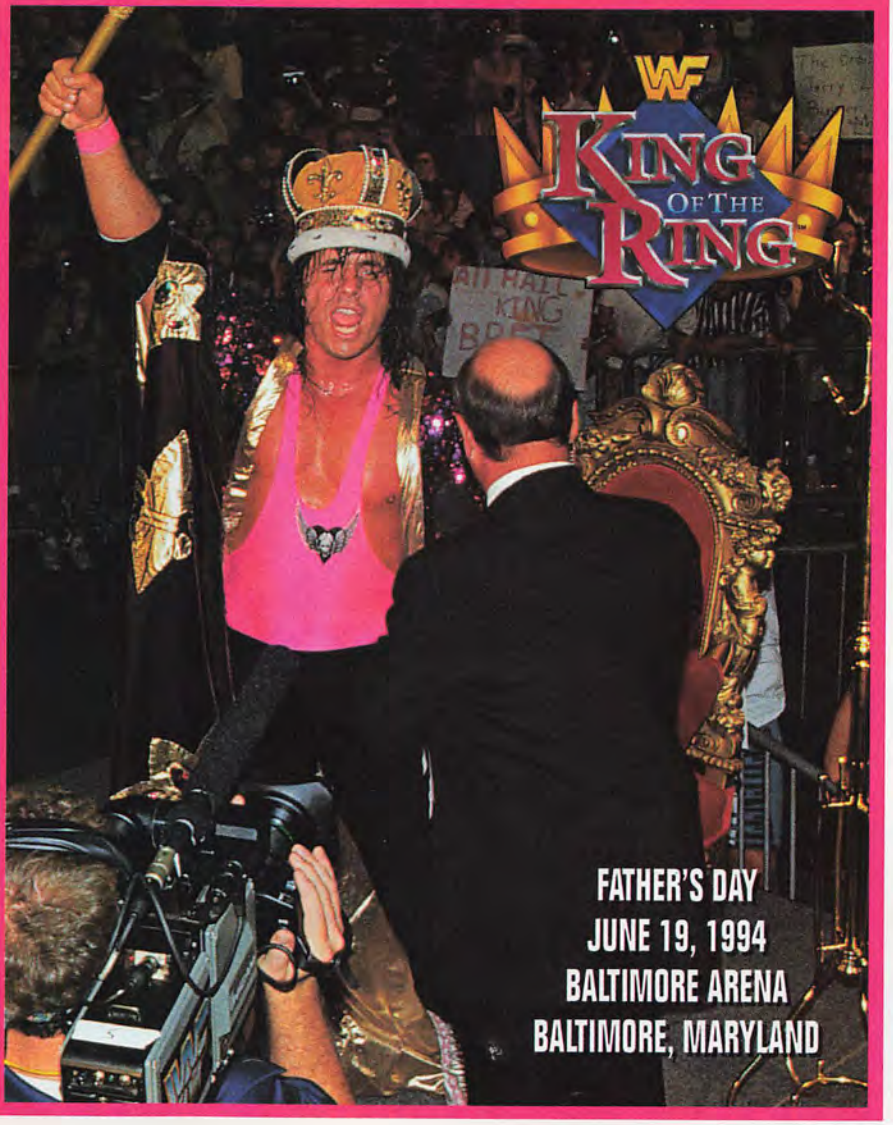
Luke and Butch say that they were thrilled to be a part of *Family Matters* and even had the opportunity to ply their wrestling talents during that particular episode. *Lowdown* has learned that the producers of *Family Matters* are considering casting the zany New Zealand duo once again in the show sometime in the future. Keep your eyes on *Family Matters* and on *World Wrestling Federation Magazine* for any additional developments.

## King of the Ring

The second annual *King of the Ring* will take place at the Baltimore Arena in Baltimore, Maryland, on Father's Day, June 19. Tickets for this thrilling World Wrestling Federation pay-per-view extravaganza will be available in just a few weeks. *Lowdown* hears that qualifying matches for the *King of the Ring* tournament should begin later next month on the Federation Television Network.

Last year, Bret "Hit Man" Hart snatched the regal kudos when he defeated Razor Ramon, Mr. Perfect and Bam Bam Bigelow all in one evening. Who will be king this year? We already have our predictions. Do you have yours?

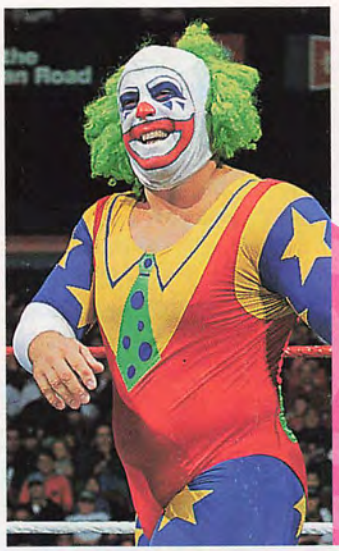
King of the Ring *will explode from the Baltimore Arena on June 19.*



PIN 'em DOWN

# QUESTIONS THAT FORCE THE ISSUE

Editor's note: This department features questions asked of wrestlers and other World Wrestling Federation personalities. We invite readers to submit their queries.



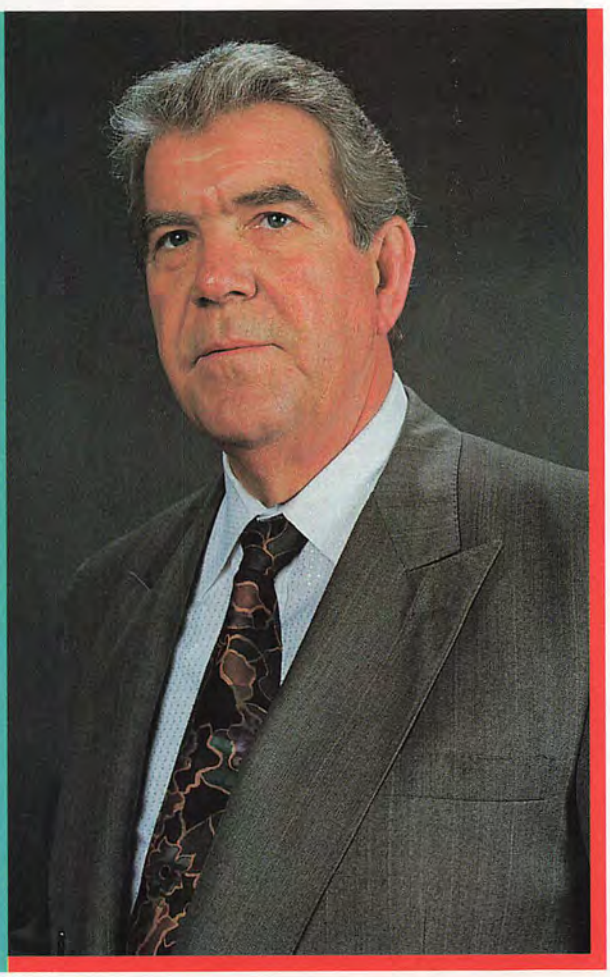
**Doink, where did you and Dink learn to be so funny?—Heather Doremire, Racine, Wisconsin**

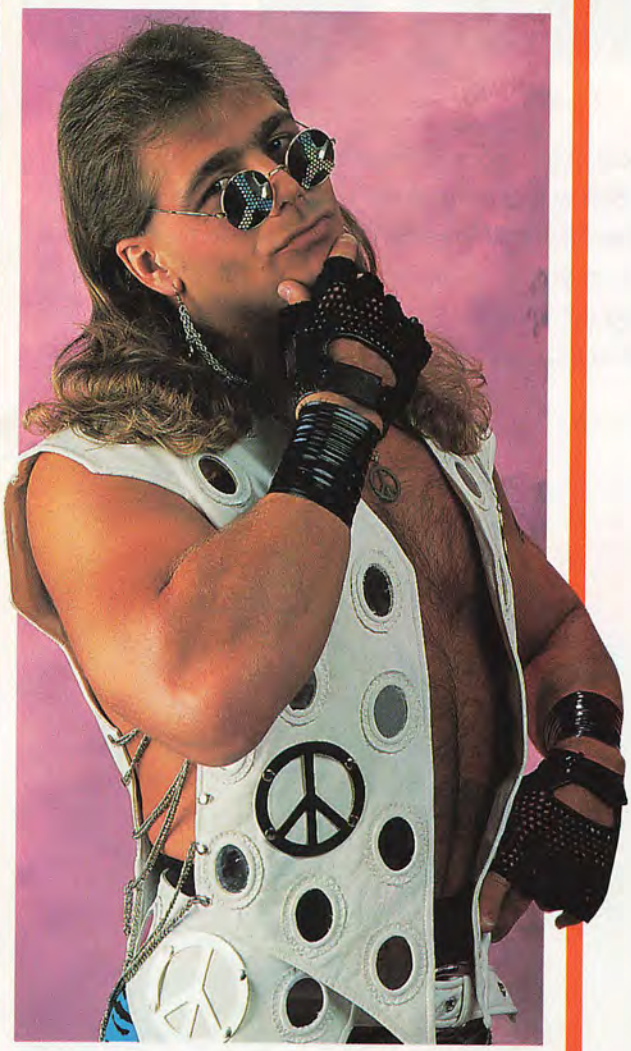
**At the expense of others, that's how me and my little buddy, Dink, got to be so funny! We like to make fools out of people such as Bam Bam Bigelow and that thing he calls his main squeeze, Luna Vachon.**

## RESPONSE----------INQUIRY

**Jack Tunney, why do you allow Lex Luger to wrestle without making him wear a forearm pad on his arm?—Jeff Fournier, East Hampton, Massachusetts**

**Lex's steel plate is a medical prosthesis. It is no different from a knee brace in football or a shield over the broken nose of a player in the NBA. I cannot mandate that Mr. Luger wear a piece of equipment that might render him slower or less effective. He did not want the plate. It had to be done. My rule stands.**





**question**

**Shawn Michaels, did you ever consider rejoining the Federation's tag team ranks? Kristen Edwards, Long Island, New York**

**answer**

**Are you kidding me or what? Me, the Heartbreak Kid rejoin the tag team ranks? I don't think so. You see, Shawn Michaels is the greatest wrestler in World Wrestling Federation history. I don't need anybody to make me look like a god. I can do that all by myself.**

QUESTION

Macho Man Randy Savage, did you have any other friends in the World Wrestling Federation besides Crush? Rich Gray, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

ANSWER

What do you mean "did I"? I've got tons of friends in the Federation. Always did. I stick with guys who stick with me—Razor Ramon, Lex Luger, Tatanka. There's plenty of them. Crush and I were friends. I didn't end the friendship. He did.

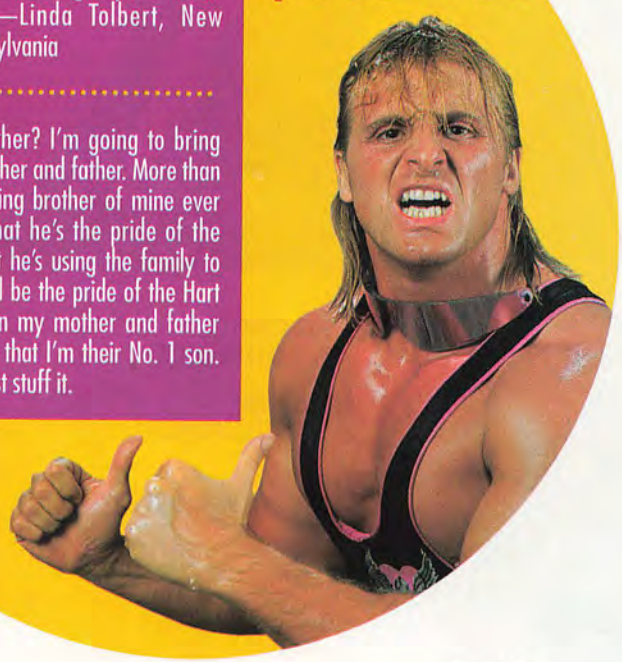
# FAMILY MATTERS

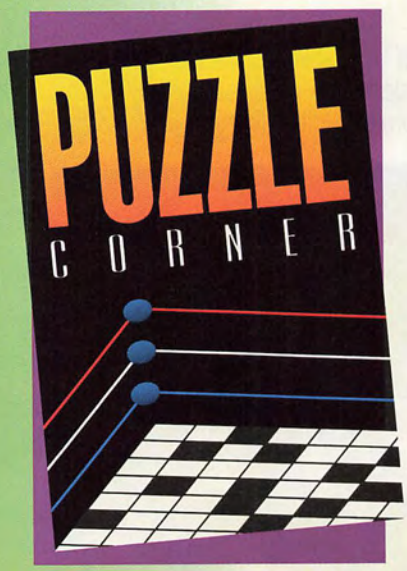
Owen Hart, I think you are pathetic. How can you act the way you have, knowing it is tearing your whole family apart—especially what it is doing to your mother and father?—Linda Tolbert, New Brighton, Pennsylvania

QUESTION

Mother and father? I'm going to bring glory to my mother and father. More than that glory-hugging brother of mine ever has. He says that he's the pride of the Hart family. But he's using the family to push himself. I'll be the pride of the Hart family. And then my mother and father will really know that I'm their No. 1 son. Bret, you can just stuff it.

ANSWER

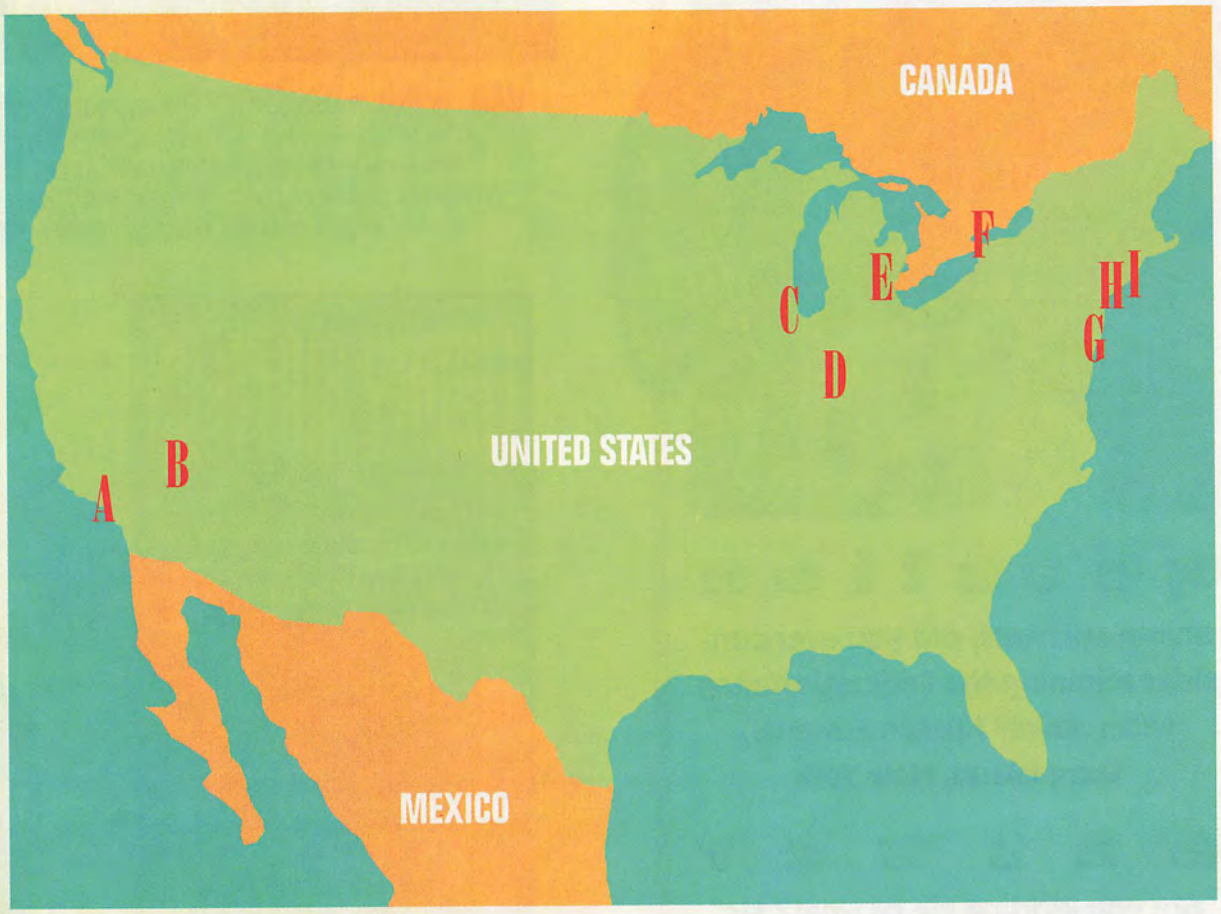





# A Really Big Show

BY LARRY HUMBER

With *WrestleMania X* just past, it is a good time to look back at the history of wrestling's showcase event. Below is a map of the United States and Canada showing every city that has hosted a *WrestleMania* (some have had more than one). It is up to you to tell us which city was the site of which *WrestleMania* (or *WrestleManias*). You should also know that one *WrestleMania* took place in three different cities. Good luck!




**A** LOS ANGELES WRESTLEMANIA(S) ☐

**B** LAS VEGAS WRESTLEMANIA(S) ☐

**C** CHICAGO WRESTLEMANIA(S) ☐

**D** INDIANAPOLIS WRESTLEMANIA(S) ☐

**E** PONTIAC WRESTLEMANIA(S) ☐

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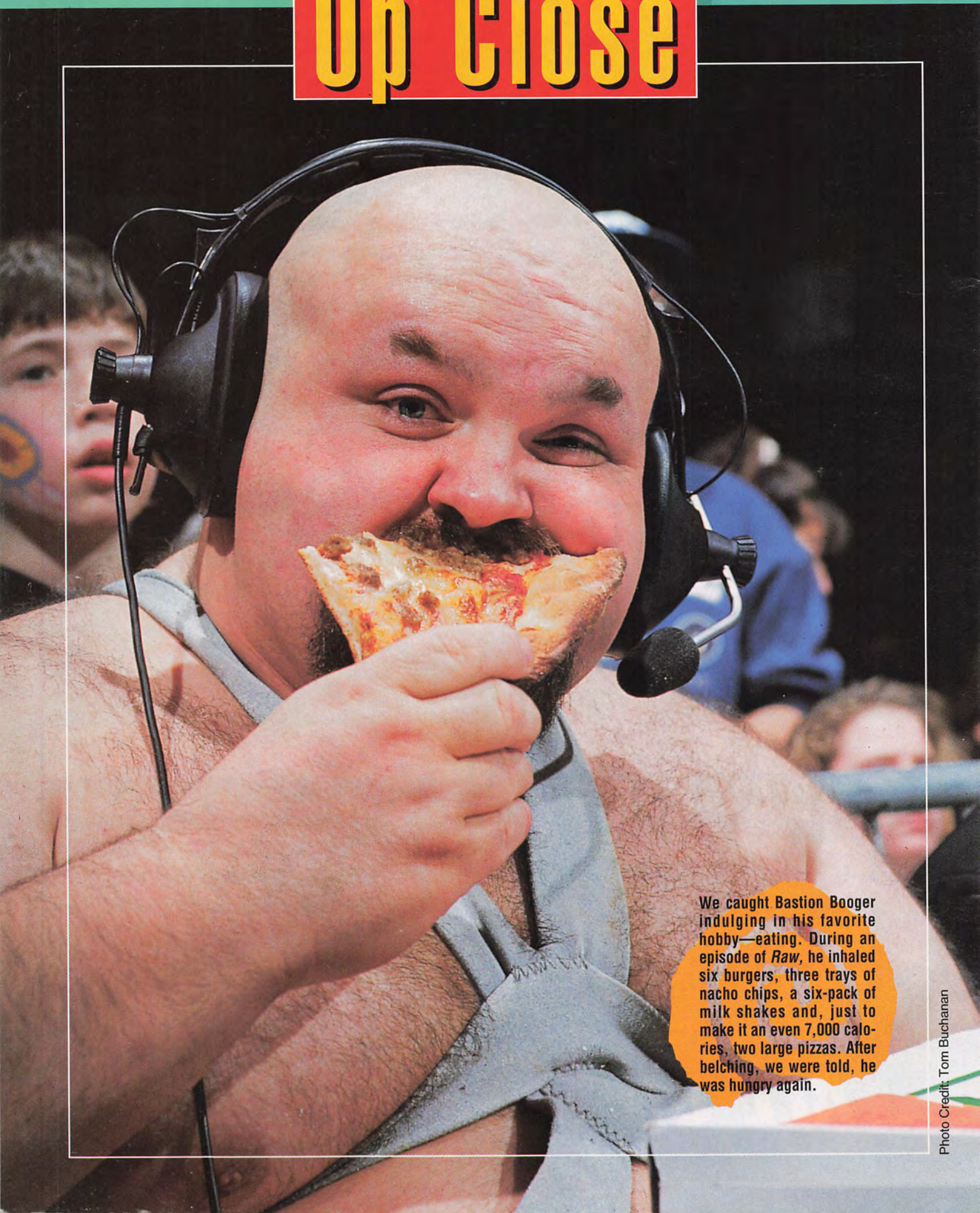
# Up Close



We caught Bastion Booger indulging in his favorite hobby—eating. During an episode of *Raw*, he inhaled six burgers, three trays of nacho chips, a six-pack of milk shakes and, just to make it an even 7,000 calories, two large pizzas. After belching, we were told, he was hungry again.

Photo Credit: Tom Buchanan

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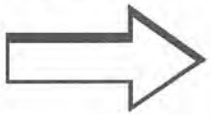

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